

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO THE MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) and its celebration of the 26th Minority Enterprise Development Week. Together, the Minority Business Development Agency and minority entrepreneurs provide immense contributions to the back bone of the economy of this great nation; this type of invaluable economic participation must be commended.

With tireless work, minority entrepreneurs and the MBDA have made tremendous advances in advancing the level of ethnic equality seen in the United States' business sector. The strides made towards equal opportunity, increased competition, and economic growth with regard to minority-owned businesses are utterly remarkable.

Minority Enterprise Development Week provides an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of minority entrepreneurs and the Minority Business Development Agency. This week gives everyone time to reflect on the ever-growing role of minority businesses in the vast business landscape of the United States economy.

The competition, diversity and unrelenting work of minority owned businesses provide intangible assets to the growth of the overall economy. It is for this reason that the MBDA and minority entrepreneurs ought to receive the praise and continuing support of people across the country.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the accomplishments of the Minority Business Development Agency and minority entrepreneurs as they offer their unique talents and services for an improved business environment for minority owned businesses in the United States.

Madam Speaker, I urge my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing the invaluable efforts of the Minority Business Development Agency and minority entrepreneurs toward strengthening not only the United States economy, but minority equality movements everywhere.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS MADE AT THE 8TH LEON H. SULLIVAN SUMMIT IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the work and accomplishments of

the Leon H. Sullivan Foundation. The Sullivan Foundation held its eighth summit this past June and was hosted by Tanzanian President, Jakaya Kikwete.

Delegates and celebrities from Africa, the United States and the Caribbean were present for this landmark event, including NBA star Kelenna Azubuike, community leader Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, CNN News anchor TJ Holmes, and actor Chris Tucker.

The purpose of this summit was to facilitate positive change in Tanzania. This goal was not only met, but surpassed. Contributions from organizations such as; the Iovino Family Foundation, the Maasai Women's Development Organization and Books for Africa have brought about the ability to create sustainable development and education programs throughout Tanzania.

I would like to recognize the late Leon H. Sullivan for his unwavering commitment to changing the standards of living in Africa. It was his contribution that has allowed for the Sullivan Foundation's success today.

8TH LEON H. SULLIVAN SUMMIT SETS HISTORICAL LANDMARK: "MOTHER OF ALL SUMMITS" LEAVES MEMORABLE FOOTPRINT IN TANZANIA

June 18, 2008 (Arusha, Tanzania)—In what was called the "Mother of all Summits," the eighth edition of the Leon H. Sullivan Summit hosted by President Jakaya Kikwete this June brought more than 4,000 participants to the beautiful landscape of Arusha, Tanzania. By the last day of plenary and workshop sessions, what was promised to be the "Summit of a Lifetime" turned out to be what many may consider a week of transformation for Tanzania.

"The spirit of my father has definitely moved through this year's Summit and I am truly inspired by all of the selfless displays of generosity and support that were shown during the week. These types of connections, the ones you can see and touch, are what the Summits are all about. This Summit really made a difference in the lives of others. No one can deny that."

With forty-seven nations represented, the spirit of Reverend Sullivan was alive and well during the week-long conference. On the first day alone, the Iovino Family Foundation gave a \$20,000 donation to the Maasai Women's Development Organization (MWEDO), which aims to provide self-sufficiency and increased access to public services and education; Books for Africa gave an initial contribution of 40,000 textbooks and later pledged to provide an additional \$100,000 in textbooks for various schools throughout Arusha; More than 1,200 Olyset mosquito nets were supplied to the most endemic villages in Arusha along with school supplies for the Manyatta Village Primary School; Frank Ski, an Atlanta-based radio personality and youth advocate purchased and delivered school supplies to children in local Tanzanian villages, while other attendees sponsored and executed additional independent outreach projects of their own to directly benefit and impact the education and well-being of Tanzanian men, women, and children.

In addition, NBA player Kelenna Azubuike of the Golden State Warriors adopted an orphanage, (the Nora Childcare Trust) and do-

nated 40 pairs of brand new NBA basketball shoes and shirts to the Tanzanian Basketball Federation, of which Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete is a member. The Myungung Presbyterian Baptist Church, using state of the art drilling equipment was able to provide clean drinking water to a community of 12,000 people in Arusha. The state of the art drill used to locate and extract clean drinking water from deep within the earth, is valued at more than \$500,000.

But perhaps the most moving and memorable gesture of the Summit, came from Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, who, during the state dinner made a public call to guests to help raise at least \$25,000 to improve the educational facilities of Tanzania's schools. Within thirty minutes the delegation, led by Summit Co-Chairmen Ambassador Carlton Masters and Ambassador Andrew Young, Sullivan Foundation President and CEO Hope Masters, over \$50,000 from individual donations ranging from as little as \$5 to \$5,000 was raised. Actor Chris Tucker and CNN news anchor TJ. Holmes were the first to make significant contributions.

By the Summit's end, delegates were able to wind down and relax with a breathtaking trip to Zanzibar Island. It was there that delegates were able to reflect and acknowledge a truly beautiful part of Africa that many admitted they didn't even know existed.

"The beauty and history of Zanzibar was captivating to me and others alike," stated Nichet Smith, Director of Public Relations for the Sullivan Foundation. "Moments like those I have captured and will hold onto forever. Zanzibar is definitely a place that everyone should see in their lifetime."

Remaining forever committed to the goals of the Summit—to provide a platform for Africa's political, economic, and cultural leaders, the Sullivan Foundation has completed yet another piece of the ever evolving bridge of hope, change and inspiration towards the vision and legacy of an extraordinary man, The Reverend Leon Howard Sullivan. For more information about the 2008 Leon H. Sullivan Summit, please visit www.the-sullivanfoundation.org/summit or contact Nichet Smith 202.736.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE ARMED FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like open by saying inclusion of all members of society regardless of race, creed or color, is the strength of our all volunteer Armed Forces. Saturday, July 26, 2008 will mark the 60th anniversary when President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981 demonstrating the moral courage to "do what was right and honorable"—to integrate the armed forces of our country. Since the Revolutionary War, African Americans have participated in cod every war or conflict. There were, at the time, countless examples of bravery and noteworthy service that spanned from Crispus Attucks to the

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

54th Massachusetts Regiment the Buffalo Soldiers, to the Tuskegee Airmen. Service in the greatest war or World War II was the culmination of much collective sacrifice and many individual acts of patriotism. The decision to issue Executive Order 9981 which integrated the armed forces confirmed that diversity is our strength and not our weakness. Since the signing of Executive Order 9981, I can forthrightly say that our country has been stronger and a better society overall.

President Truman and his advisors recognized that complete racial integration at all ranks is an essential prerequisite to a cohesive and highly effective fighting force. We see success with the challenges of diversity as being critical to national security. One poignant example is the way our armed forces were hampered with racial conflict in the ranks during the Vietnam conflict in the 1960s and 1970s. This serves as an effective lesson on the importance of inclusion and equal opportunity at all levels of leadership.

However, there has been progress, and I believe that the U.S. Military is a pioneer in providing equal opportunity for its uniformed members above and beyond what is usually seen in the civilian workforce. In truth, a senior military boardroom is a much closer semblance of our society than the average corporate boardroom. But, we can and should do better because it is simply the right and necessary thing to do. Senior military leadership diversity is a matter of strategic importance to the future well-being of our fighting forces. I have initiated dialogue with the senior leadership of each service branch to lay this issue on the table for a healthy discussion.

Of particular note and at their request, I have met with the Commandant of the Marine Corps (General Conway), the Chief of Naval Operations (Admiral Roughead) twice, the Secretary of the Army (General Casey) and plan to meet with the new Secretary of the Air Force (nominee General Schwartz) in the very near future. Their willingness to discuss difficult topics and issues is a testament to their dedication to finding a suitable and long-standing resolution to establishing diversity within DoD. We collectively believe that diversity within DoD and more specifically at the most senior or Flag officer level is critical to recruiting and retention as well as the national security of this nation.

Over the past few years there has been some progress in terms of promotion of Flag level officers and assignment to high profile positions critical to national security. Two examples are Lieutenant General Lloyd Austin currently serving as Commander Multi-National Forces (MNF) in Iraq and Major General Walt E. Gaskin who served as the Commander Multi-National Forces (MNF) West in Iraq.

It is prudent that we accept the fact that diversity is a necessary component within the officer corps of the services and more specifically the Flag officer pool. Of greatest importance is the most senior flag level rank, which represents the major decision-making and influential officer level population within the Department of Defense.

Rather than substituting my interpretation of the myriad ideas discussed in my recent meetings, I think it is best to provide a forum for all of the principal stakeholders and subject matter experts to delve deeper into the issue and provide the Committee on Armed Services

with their recommendations. I have respectfully laid before the House Armed Services Committee language creating a Commission on senior military leadership diversity in the House FY09 NDAA.

The Commission will review current policy and programs to provide recommendations to the Pentagon to insure that qualified minority and female officers are given the same career advancement opportunities as their counterparts.

As you know, of the 39 active four-star Generals, there is currently only one minority, General Kip Ward of Africa Command (AFRICOM). Of the 141 three-star level or 0–9 rank Flag level officers, there are only six minority Generals and five female Generals. Minorities of African-, Hispanic-, Asian-, Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Native Alaskan decent represent slightly over 19 percent of the over 207,000 officers in the four service branches, but make up over 38 percent of the enlisted ranks.

I believe that just as President Truman had the courage to sign Executive Order 9981 that integrated the armed services in 1948 that it is now time to take a holistic look at the makeup of our officer corps from the most junior to the most senior leadership position to insure that it is diverse and balanced.

We now have the opportunity in our nation's history to begin to put in place a long term solution to the long term challenge of establishing diversity at all levels within our military.

I believe that the onus falls our shoulders to provide a continuation of the courageous initiative that President Truman undertook in order to fully realize integration at all levels within the armed forces and in particular at the senior leadership level.

I respectfully request that the Congress continue to support the establishment of a Commission to discuss diversity in the officer corps and insure equal access to opportunities for the most senior leadership ranks of our Armed Forces.

AVIATION SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, today, we are considering H.R. 6493, the Aviation Safety Enhancement Act of 2008.

This important legislation was introduced in a bipartisan manner and I want to thank Chairman OBERSTAR and Ranking Members MICA and PETRI for working with me on this legislation.

The United States has the safest air transportation system in the world; however, I have said time and again, we must not become complacent about our past success.

The Committee's April 3 hearing on the failure of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to properly oversee air carrier maintenance programs demonstrates the need for this Committee to ensure vigorous oversight by the FAA to maintain the highest level of safety.

Following the April 3 hearing, the Department of Transportation Inspector General

(DOT IG) made several recommendations to the FAA to ensure proper safety oversight. The FAA's reluctance to accept the IG's recommendations, including establishing an independent entity within the FAA to review FAA employee safety concerns and rotating certain safety inspectors to ensure objective safety oversight is unacceptable. That is why I strongly support H.R. 6493, which establishes an independent Aviation Safety Whistleblower Investigation Office within the FAA; rotates principal supervisory inspectors every 5 years; mandates modification to FAA's customer service initiative; and requires monthly reviews of the FAA's Air Transportation Oversight System (ATOS) database. H.R. 6493 is a positive first step to ensure that FAA maintains safety as its highest priority.

In my capacity as Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee, I have noticed a pattern with the FAA—the FAA is a reactive agency—not a proactive agency. We have seen it in the area of runway safety; improving conditions at our air traffic control facilities; congestion and delays at our airports and in the sky; and now in safety oversight.

It is a continuous pattern—the FAA only acts when pushed into action by the Aviation Subcommittee or the Full Committee. It is my hope that H.R. 6493 spurs the FAA to be proactive instead of reactive and make the necessary changes to ensure effective oversight of our Nation's aviation system. The American traveling public deserves no less.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6493.

CONDEMNING 1994 ATTACK ON ARGENTINE JEWISH CENTER

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution, condemning the attack on the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association (AMIA), and I would like to thank my friend from Florida, the Ranking Member on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN for sponsoring this meaningful resolution.

Mr. Speaker, on July 18th, 1994, a huge explosion rocked the city of Buenos Aires—marking the second murderous attack against Israeli and Jewish targets in Argentina, which is home to the largest Jewish community in Latin America. The first occurred 2 years prior and was aimed at the Israeli Embassy. The second was the bombing of the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association—where 85 people were murdered and hundreds more wounded.

It has been 14 years since the Jewish Mutual Association was attacked. Yet, the culprits have not been brought to justice. Part of the reason is there is extensive evidence linking the planning of the attacks to the Government of Iran and the execution of that attack to Hezbollah, an umbrella organization of radical Islamic Shiite groups with strong links to Iran and Syria. Iran and Hezbollah have a history of supporting and sponsoring terror, and they have been unwilling to cooperate with investigators.

I have denounced their actions, particularly Iran for being the engine behind these attacks

by financing, training, and arming terrorist organizations like Hezbollah. And, the time has come for all nations to fully cooperate with the AMIA investigation.

Too many lives have been lost. Too many families have been ripped apart. Too many have suffered.

It is time for the world to join together to move peace forward in the Middle East, to end violence against the Jewish community at-large, and to foster respect and understanding for all people throughout the world.

I believe we can start by bringing the perpetrators of the attacks on Argentina to justice. By punishing those who caused death, harm and conflict in Argentina, we will set a clear signal to the world that killing will not advance their cause.

Thanks again to Congresswoman ROSELEHTINEN for sponsoring this resolution. It is important for the Argentinean government to know that we support their efforts to bring the perpetrators of this horrific crime to justice. And again, my deepest condolences and sympathy to the people of Argentina and Israel for the grave loss of life and vast destruction caused by this attack.

HONORING ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Joseph's Catholic Church in celebrating its 100th anniversary. The congregation had its centennial celebration on Saturday, June 21, 2008.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church is located in Twain Harte, California. The origin of this community can be traced back to some of the original settlers in 1907. The area began as a small mining and logging town in the high Sierra Nevada foothills. The church was founded in 1908 with the construction of St. Joseph's Church in Tuolumne City. The church itself not only sets the tone for the present generation but is a proud symbol of the dedication of the pioneer ancestors who built it.

St. Joseph's was originally a member of Sonora's St. Patrick's Parish. Because of the distance to travel between Tuolumne City and Sonora, and the large number of worshipers, the people of northeastern Tuolumne County applied to the Chancery several times for the building of a new parish. Reverend Hugh A. Donohoe, the Bishop of Stockton, decided to go forth with the new parish. The parish in Twain Harte was formally erected and completed on June 20, 1962. The task of forming the Parish was effectively executed by the late Fr. George Lacey, who served the community for 21 years. Fr. William Ryan served the Parish for 10 years and worked to enhance and complete the Parish plant. The parish is now part of Twain Harte's All Saints Parish.

Three generations of worshipers make up the 200 parishioners, headed by Fr. John Fitzgerald and Deacon Ed Zoma. Deacon Zoma is ordained in the Chaldean Rite and can claim to be the longest serving deacon in the country. The Alter Society has now grown into the All Saints' Parish Ladies' Guild and has about sixty members.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate St. Joseph's Catholic Church on its centennial celebration. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the congregation of St. Joseph's Catholic Church many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO RICHAEAL YOUNG ON BEING ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT SENATE FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COL- LEGES

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege for me to honor Richael Young of Foster City, California, on being elected president of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC).

At the young age of 20, Richael has already accomplished much and demonstrated tremendous leadership skills. When she was 14 years old she began attending the College of San Mateo where she, along with two other students, founded their school's chapter of the National Community College Honor Society, Phi Theta Kappa. By 16, Richael was vice president of operations of this prestigious honor society and just a year later, at age 17, she was elected president. That same year, Richael was elected a student trustee of the San Mateo County Community College district, holding this leadership position for nearly 2 years.

In May of 2008, Richael ran a successful campaign for the at-large senator of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges. On July 13, 2008, the Student Senate for California Community Colleges held officer elections, and I am proud to announce that Richael was elected president. Richael is not only the youngest person to ever hold this position, but she is also the first woman to do so. In this prominent role, she will be representing California's 110 community colleges and 2.6 million students.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Ms. Richael Young whom I am so proud to have interning in my Washington, DC office serving the people of the 14th Congressional district. We have all benefited from her intelligence, diligence and dedication to excellence. We wish her our best as the president of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges and the contributions she will no doubt make to California and our country.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF STICKBALL HALL OF FAMER, CHARLES EDWARD BALLARD III

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Charles Edward Ballard III an outstanding son of Harlem who passed away on February 14, 2008, Valentine's Day. As I speak with profound sorrow, I ascend to cele-

brate a life well lived and to remember with fondness the accomplishments of a remarkable man who, over his many years and under much adversity, fought to preserve the good-old pastime game of stickball.

The death of Charles brought immense sorrow and loss to his family and friends, and to the countless individuals associated with the legendary game of stickball. The game he fought to preserve often served to unite young people of different races and nationalities from the many diverse neighborhoods around the city of New York. The All-Star Charles Ballard was a celebrity among the many that played stickball on our city's streets, taking part in ten stickball championships.

Within the New York City stickball community, Mr. Ballard is widely considered a legend whose bat has launched more than 10,000 line drives over a 50-year career. Therefore, it was no surprise that Mr. Ballard was the first inductee into the Stickball Hall of Fame in 1973. The Hall was founded with the most modest of goals: to formally recognize the sport. The founders—all members of the Old Timers, including their manager, Carlos Diaz—picked the top players from throughout the city, including those who parlayed their street skills into professional baseball careers, like Phil Rizzuto, Joe Torre, Willie Randolph and Rusty Torres.

"Charlie" as he was affectionately known, was an inspiration and true symbol of commitment and sportsmanship to the game he truly loved and its faithful players for more than 50 years. Mr. Ballard was a shining example of selfless love for the many generations of young bucks that came to play the game before and after. He derived significant gratification teaching the sport to kids, spending many hours in the streets and parks of the community with them. He also gladly spent equal, if not more time, mentoring youth about the game of life, offering them his wisdom, compassion, and support.

Mr. Ballard was also a member of the "Greatest Generation" as a veteran of World War II. He proudly fought for his country, serving in the Navy from 1942 to 1945. In addition, he had the distinction of being one of only a few African-Americans to serve as a radio operator in the Navy. Charlie achieved so much during his lifetime that his comrades will continue to benefit from his work even as they miss his ongoing presence.

Madam Speaker, rather than mourn his passing, I hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the life of Charles Edward Ballard III by remembering that he exemplified greatness in every way.

TRIBUTE TO THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PEOPLE

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, the meeting of the two Cypriot leaders on March 21, May 23, and July 1, 2008 and the agreement reached by them to launch full-fledged negotiations, which will aim to find a comprehensive settlement to the long-standing Cyprus problem, have been welcomed by the international community, including the United States, the European Union,

and others. The meetings raised hopes among the international community that a mutually acceptable settlement would now be more seriously sought by the Greek Cypriot side, whose policy over the years had been to delay the start of full-fledged negotiations.

On July 20th, the Turkish Cypriots commemorate the 34th anniversary of the Turkish peace operation, which prevented the attempt by the Greek Cypriots to annex the island to Greece. Although peace prevails in Cyprus today, the social, economic, and political development of the Turkish Cypriots have been restricted for more than 3 decades.

In order to promote the spirit of goodwill generated during the recent meetings, it is my sincere hope that this positive stance demonstrated by the two Cypriot leaders will be supported by the United States government. The Turkish Cypriots have demonstrated their willingness to work collaboratively, by voting in favor of the Annan Plan, which presumed great sacrifices for the Turkish Cypriots, because nearly a quarter of their territory would have been ceded to the Greek Cypriot side, and almost a quarter of the Turkish Cypriot population would have been dislocated, some for the second, third, and even fourth time.

Despite the potential impact of the Annan Plan, 65 percent of Turkish Cypriots voted in favor of the historic referendum of April 24, 2004, while 76 percent of Greek Cypriots voted against it. The Turkish Cypriot people, in their continued commitment to achieve a just and lasting settlement that respects the political equality of these two groups on the island are still waiting for the international community to honor the promises it made to them.

Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the unwavering commitment of the Turkish Cypriot people to reunify the island, and I encourage the United States government to lend its support to lifting of the isolation that presently exists.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber yesterday. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 512, 513 and 514.

HONORING THE CITY OF TURLOCK, CALIFORNIA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the city of Turlock upon their celebration of their 100th Anniversary.

In 1871, John Mitchell, a prominent land owner in Turlock, came to an agreement with the railroad. The railroad agreed to build a train depot, a switching yard and telegraph station on a portion of Mr. Mitchell's property.

In return, Mr. Mitchell gave the railroad a twenty five mile right of way passage through his vast land holdings. The land consisted of over 100,000 acres of wheat that spanned from, what is now, Ceres to Atwater and west to the San Joaquin River. It was a win-win situation for all; while the railroad was able to expand, Mr. Mitchell was able to move products.

Over the next 20 years, growth in the area was slow. It did, however, experience a great amount of financial success. During California's Golden Wheat era of the mid to late 1800s this area was shipping an extraordinary amount of wheat across the United States and around the world. Turlock was booming, but it did not last long. With the over planting of crops, the poor farming practices, and depleted soil the production of wheat fell drastically. The Golden Wheat era was over by 1890. It only took 3 years for Turlock to fade away, and in 1893 John Mitchell, the founder of Turlock, passed away. Mr. Mitchell had brought life to Turlock; he was responsible for bringing the railroad and he financed many farmers and businesses. With a nationwide economic collapse on the horizon, Turlock faced two more problems; water and fire. The farmers in Turlock desperately needed an irrigation system to keep their crops going, and then a massive fire destroyed downtown Turlock.

Fortunately, luck changed for this small farming town. In 1901, irrigation was funded. Small farmers were back in business, and Turlock began to thrive again. John Mitchell's heirs hired a land promoter and sold his vast holdings into small farming lots. People began to flock to Turlock. By 1907, Turlock was experiencing record breaking activity in commercial and residential construction. The push for incorporation began to take hold. A special election was held on January 21, 1908 and Turlock was incorporated with about 1800 residents. A board of trustees, a treasurer, a clerk and a marshal were all elected into office. Today Turlock has a population of over 69,000 and is home to California State University, Stanislaus.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the city of Turlock on 100 years. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Turlock many years of continued growth and success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF SHIRLEY J. PIGOTT, CHIEF OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIVISION IN THE 96TH AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Shirley Pigott on her retirement as the Chief of the Community Relations Division at the 96th Air Base Wing Public Affairs Office, Eglin Air Force Base.

Mrs. Shirley Pigott has had many accomplishments in her 31 years of civil service work

for the military. She served as Deputy Director and Chief of the Community Relations Division in the Air Armament Center Office of Public Affairs. She was an Advisory Board member of the Okaloosa County Cherokee Elementary School, Eglin Air Force Base Officers' Club, and Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce.

She was a Military Affairs Committee Advisory Board member of the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, the Niceville/Valparaiso Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Destin Area Chamber of Commerce. Shirley was a member of the Okaloosa County Veterans' Memorial committee, the American Heart Association Ball Committee, and the Air Force Association. She was also a member of the Board of Directors on the Okaloosa County Commission on the Status of Women.

Furthermore, Shirley served her community by being the foremost Eglin authority on local civic and opinion leaders. She was a helpful figure during President Bush's visit to Eglin. Beyond her community, Shirley worked with the White House staff preparing guest lists.

Shirley attended Okaloosa-Walton College and received 2 years of college credit in Management. She has taken 182 hours of the Air Force College of Installation Sustainment and Management, A3, classes and numerous other Air Force classes on a variety of topics. Shirley took 1 year of Bible classes by correspondence from Rhema Bible Institute in Tulsa, OK. She continued her education by taking Mandatory Annual International Merchant Purchase Authorization Card, IMPAC, Card refresher classes with certificates.

Shirley Pigott has received a long list of important certificates and awards. They include: Air Force Systems Command Public Affairs Civilian of the Year Award, 1987; The Military Order of the World Wars Certificate for supporting the Massing of the Colors ceremonies, 1990-2006; Robert L.F. Sikes "Patriotism Award" from the Crestview Chamber, 1993; Air Force Enlisted Foundation Certificate for supporting the Bob Hope Birthday and Anniversary celebration, 1996; Air Force Development Test Center Best Program, ComRel Award, 1997; Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce President's Award for Outstanding Assistance to the Chamber and the Armed Forces, 1999; Certificate of Appreciation for the Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs Achievement Awards Second Place—Director's Excellence Award, Special Achievement, 2000; Certificate of Appreciation for Exemplary Civilian Service in supporting President George W. Bush's visit, 2002; Notable Achievement Award for outstanding leadership and support for the 2004 Open House and Air Show, 2004; Air Armament Center Staff Civilian, Cat IV, of the Quarter, 2005; Nominee for the First Northwest Florida ATHENA Awards Program, 2006; and, Okaloosa County Women's Hall of Fame Nominee, Second Annual Northwest Florida ATHENA Awards Program Recipient, Air Armament Center Recognition Ceremony for Community Support, 2007.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to congratulate Shirley Pigott on her retirement and wish her many more years of success and happiness

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
JOSELYN LLOYD BELL, JR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Joselyn LLOYD Bell, Jr., Congressional Liaison Officer, Army House Liaison Division, Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison, who will retire September 30, 2008. I wish to congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Bell upon his retirement after twenty years of distinguished military service to our Nation.

I came to know Lieutenant Colonel Bell over the last year while he served as an Army legislative liaison officer to the U.S. House of Representatives. A steadfast dedication to Soldiers, their families, the Army, and our Nation has been the hallmark of his remarkable military career during which he has distinguished himself as both a soldier and leader.

Colonel Bell's assignment to the Army's House Liaison Office was the culmination of an outstanding military career. Prior to assuming this position, Colonel Bell served as a Defense Collection Manager at the National Military Command Center in the Pentagon, and later at the Defense Intelligence Analysis Center in Washington, DC, where he worked with in the Intelligence Community to ensure intelligence assets were properly postured to answer the Nation's most demanding and urgent needs.

A military intelligence officer, Lieutenant Colonel Bell received his commission through the Army ROTC program at the University of Central Arkansas. A series of command and staff positions followed. His first assignment was as a Surveillance Platoon leader and later Company Executive Officer in the 109th Military Intelligence Battalion of the 9th Infantry Division (Motorized) at Fort Lewis, Washington. He went to war in August 1991, after Iraq invaded Kuwait, serving as a Platoon Leader and Interrogator in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

Following the Persian Gulf War, Colonel Bell held several military intelligence assignments in positions of increasing responsibility. In 2001, Colonel Bell was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Georgia, where, following the terrorist attacks of 9/11, he participated in the development of combat plans and orders for Operation Enduring/Iraqi Freedom.

In 2003, he went to war again as the Chief of the 3rd Infantry Division's Analysis and Control Element directing intelligence operations and producing intelligence in support of the invasion that destroyed the Iraqi Armed Forces and removed the Iraqi Regime.

After his tour of combat, he returned to Fort Stewart as the Executive Officer of the 103rd Military Intelligence Battalion, quickly resetting the Battalion for a second deployment to Iraq.

Lieutenant Colonel Bell holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Central Arkansas and a Master of Science degree in Strategic Intelligence from the National Defense Intelligence College.

His outstanding service has been recognized with numerous awards including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meri-

torious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Services Achievement Medal, and Army Achievement Medal. He proudly wears the Parachutist and Air Assault Badges.

Lieutenant Colonel Bell's selfless service, dedication to duty, leadership, and loyalty represent the highest traditions of military service. He is a true soldier and scholar.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Lieutenant Colonel Joselyn LLOYD Bell, Jr. for his service to our Army and our Nation. I would also like to extend my thanks and appreciation to his wife, Amy, and five children—Shelby, Jordan, Chalci, Tanner and Sydnee—for their many sacrifices and for their service to the Nation alongside their Soldier. We have all benefited from the service of such a man and such a family. I wish him and his family all the best in a well deserved retirement.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
ROBBIE "GRAN" JUANITA
SEPOLEN

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to celebrate the wonderful and full life of Robbie "Gran" Juanita Sepolen.

In her 105 years on this Earth, Gran was a daughter, a wife, a mother, a foster parent, a student, a teacher, an activist, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great-grandmother, and even a great-great-great-grandmother, and most importantly, she was a devoted Christian. Her accomplishments are innumerable and the lives that she touched along the way are countless.

Growing up in Brownwood, Texas, Gran was part of the first graduating class from Brownwood Colored High School in 1918, later named the Rufus F. Hardin High School. After college, during a time of great bigotry against the African American race, Gran overcame those boundaries and shared her love of learning with others as a teacher and librarian in the Brownwood School District.

A true public servant, Gran used her rights as a voting citizen to help others find their voice by helping them register to vote. She was active in the senior citizen ministry as well, sharing her love of the arts in senior citizen centers throughout the county.

Gran never tired of meeting new people or learning new things, participating in numerous cultural events, and was even crowned the 2001 Cowboy of Color Rodeo Queen in Houston, Texas.

While we mourn the loss of such a unique and wonderful woman, we must also celebrate a life well lived and move forward knowing that Gran left footprints on the hearts of all that crossed her path.

It is my honor to not only have represented Gran here in Congress, but also to continue to represent all those she inspired during her long life; they are Gran's legacy to Texas.

THE 34TH COMMEMORATION OF
THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, today marks the 34th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus and I want to remind all of my colleagues of the ongoing Turkish occupation.

We cannot let the passage of time diminish the events of 1974, nor can we ignore the human rights violations by Turkey that continue today. For more than 34 years the United States and United Nations, as well as European nations, have lamented Turkey's 1974 invasion and subsequent occupation of the Republic of Cyprus. Turkey's poor treatment of Greek-Cypriots living in the occupied area, and its desecration of Christian churches, is without justification.

In July, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus in complete violation of international law and is currently occupying approximately 37 percent of Cyprus' territory. Nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forced from their homes, making them refugees in their own country. A large portion of those homes were unlawfully given over to thousands of illegal settlers from Turkey, whom are still there today.

During the Turkish invasion, Cyprus's main town in Famagusta was bombarded and the entire population was forced to flee their homes in fear, never to return again. The Turkish forces sealed off the city with barbed wire fences and this is how it remains today. Since 1974, more than 75 resolutions have been adopted by the U.N. Security Council and more than 13 by the General Assembly, calling for the return of the refugees to their homes and properties. These resolutions are being ignored by Turkey, which continues to violate the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Greek Cypriots.

Since 1974, U.N. Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, as well as resolutions adopted by numerous other international organizations, and resolutions we in Congress have passed, reflect the universal condemnation of Turkey's invasion and all subsequent acts of aggression against Cyprus.

The United States and Cyprus share a deep and abiding commitment to upholding the ideals of freedom, democracy, and human rights. The international community has a moral and ethical obligation to stand with Cypriots to reunify their island and end the military occupation.

Cyprus's goal is the reunification of the island as a bicomunal and bizonal federation with a single sovereignty, single international personality and single citizenship with respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Cypriots and the withdrawal of Turkish occupation forces. President Demetris Christofias is committed to negotiating in good faith in order to achieve a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolutions, and the High Level Agreements of 1977 and 1979 and the values and principles on which the EU is founded.

It is my sincere hope that as we honor the 34th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus that we are closer to the end of the occupation than to the beginning.

HONORING MIKE WAGNER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mike Wagner upon his retirement as the Captain of the Stanislaus County Sheriffs Reserve. Mr. Wagner will be honored at the Stanislaus Sheriff's Posse Rodeo on June 14, 2008.

Mike Wagner was born in Yuba City, California but was raised in Newman, California. In 1965 he joined the United States Air Force and served for 3 years. After leaving the Air Force, he moved back home and joined the Stanislaus County Sheriffs Department. Since then, he has documented over 25,000 volunteer hours for the reserve unit. He has held an administrative position within the reserve unit for over 25 years and was the Reserve Captain for 16 years.

Mr. Wagner has contributed greatly to the Sheriff's Department through the Reserves and has received many accolades for his efforts. In 1972, Mr. Wagner was a founding member of the Sheriffs mounted unit. He has chaired the Sheriffs Posse Rodeo to raise money for the Reserve Organization. In 1980 he received commendation for water rescue and for presidential protection. He has received commendation by the Modesto Rotary, the California State Sheriffs Association Meeting for services provided, California State University, Stanislaus and was selected three times as the Stanislaus County Reserve Officer of the Year. He has been certified for mounted patrol and was sworn as a level one officer in 1996. In 1997, Mr. Wagner was selected by the California Reserve Peace Officer Association as the state Reserve Officer of the Year. He also received the 2004 Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department Medal of Merit.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mike Wagner upon his retirement from the Stanislaus County Sheriffs Reserve. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Wagner many years of continued success.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF FOWLER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Fowler, California on the celebration of their 100th anniversary this past June 15, 2008.

The City of Fowler owes its name to Thomas Fowler, the first businessman to ship cattle from the Central Pacific Railroad line ten miles south of the city of Fresno, California in 1872 where Fowler now exists. The city was officially incorporated on June 15, 1908.

Among the many historic highlights for this thriving community include establishing a large

irrigation canal from the Kings River and incorporating it as the Fowler Switch Canal in 1881; having the sole store owner in town, Mr. John Gentry assume the role of Postmaster in 1882 instituting the first rural delivery in the entire area, and being home to the oldest house of worship of the Armenian Apostolic Faith anywhere in the United States through St. Gregory's Armenian Apostolic Church established in Fowler in 1908.

Relying mainly on agriculture as a significant economic base, this small town in the San Joaquin Valley is known for harvesting citrus fruits, grapes, and fresh market fruits among other crops. Fowler is also the home of processing fruit plants which are part of their thriving industrial business corridor that continues to expand.

Commonly referred to as "one of Fresno County's best kept secrets" the residents of Fowler are proud of the small-town feel to their community and the family-centered lifestyle. Fowler's local leaders praise their 'well-kept neighborhoods, attractive downtown, highly acclaimed school district and quality affordable housing' as gemstones of their community.

It is indeed a pleasure for me to congratulate the City of Fowler on their centennial celebration as I am truly honored to represent this little city in the House of Representatives. I wish the community continued success and many more years of tradition for all who already live here and those who choose to make Fowler their home in the future.

RECOGNIZING OKALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY ANTHONY FORGIONE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I rise today in recognition of Deputy Anthony Forgione of the Okaloosa County Sheriffs Office, who was slain in the line of duty on July 22nd. My deepest condolences go out to Deputy Forgione's family and friends as they mourn his untimely loss.

Deputy Forgione, a former Fort Walton Beach Police officer, was just two days shy of his three-year anniversary with the Okaloosa county Sheriff's office. He was killed when he and two other deputies, all members of the Special Response Team, went into a home to apprehend a suspect who had walked out of a mental health evaluation. The suspect fired at the team with a shotgun, fatally wounding Deputy Forgione. He was only 33 years old and is survived by his wife and two daughters, ages 5 and 10. Deputy Forgione's death marks the first time in the history of the Sheriff's Department a deputy was killed in the line of duty and has shocked a community proud of that history. The funeral service for Anthony Forgione is set for 2:00 p.m. on July 26th at the Niceville Assembly of God in Niceville, FL.

The Northwest Florida Daily News reported that when summarizing what happened during yesterday's early morning events and the manner in which his deputies responded to the incident, Okaloosa County Sheriff Charlie Morris said, "Sometimes, it just goes wrong.

Sometimes in doing our job, we lose people. They did their job well this morning, and they did it well. It's just gut-wrenching." When speaking of Deputy Forgione, specifically, he stated, "He was a professional, a true professional and he loved his SRT team."

As Sheriff Morris and the rest of the local law enforcement community deal with the loss of one of 'their own', he said, "It just gets in the deepest part of your stomach and turns it upside down". As a former Deputy Sheriff myself, I can attest to the pain the whole department is feeling at this time and my heart goes out to them.

Madam Speaker, the communities of Okaloosa County have reason to be proud of Deputy Forgione and I am humbled to have the honor of representing those people. Vicki and I will keep Anthony's entire family, especially his wife, Jessica and his young daughters, in our thoughts and prayers. I hope all the people of Northwest Florida and our Nation do the same. On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the unheralded bravery of Deputy Anthony Forgione and wish to honor his exemplary service to the Okaloosa County community. May God bless Deputy Forgione and all those who serve in law enforcement to protect our communities.

INCREASED DIALOGUE BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, recognizing increased dialogue between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriots, and Turkey's support for a peaceful resolution on Cyprus, it is encouraging to see positive steps being taken to reunify the island.

A recent Washington Times editorial outlines the importance of building on progress being made and explains how the U.S. can contribute to this process.

NEEDING AN EXCUSE FOR SUCCESS

[From the Washington Times, July 22, 2008]

The divided island of Cyprus confirms the axiom that political leaders occasionally need excuses for success. The United States should give newly elected Greek Cypriot President Demetris Christofias an excuse to negotiate the reunification of the island with Turkish Cypriot President Mehmet Ali Talat by breaking the international embargo on the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) through direct transportation, trade, telecommunications and sporting links.

Cyprus fractured between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot de facto sovereignties in 1963 following the demise of the 1960 constitution. Since then, Greek Cypriot leaders have lacked any political incentive to compromise from a position of domination because the Greek Cypriot south has enjoyed exclusive international recognition while Turkish Cypriots have suffered from political isolation and economic strangulation. The Greek Cypriot south is represented at the United Nations. It enjoys diplomatic relations with every nation but the Republic of Turkey. It represents the entire island at international sporting or cultural events. Greek Cypriot intransigence has carried no penalty. Indeed, stubbornness has been rewarded by the international community

through the continuing global embargo of the Turkish Cypriots but for Turkey. Turkish Cypriot youth, straining in a economy under perpetual duress, have had to flee the island in search of opportunity. Time has allowed the embargo to weaken Turkish Cypriot resistance to the Greek Cypriot ambition to reduce them to vassalage. In this favorable international context for the Greek Cypriot south, any Greek Cypriot leader who would have yielded anything to Turkish Cypriots would have been committing political suicide.

At its birth from British colonial rule in 1960, Cyprus sported a single sovereignty with single citizenship under a finely balanced constitution. To opine on responsibility for the destruction of the constitutional order in 1963 and the necessity for Turkish troops to rescue Turkish Cypriots from violence in 1974 would imperil ongoing reunification talks. It is sufficient to note that through Greek and Greek Cypriot lobbying and a western prejudice favoring Christians over Muslims, the international community has severed virtually all government and private connections to Turkish Cypriots for nearly 45 years. That isolation was not required by national or international laws. It was the result of cynical political or economic calculations of governments and private enterprise. Intermittent negotiations over reunification with separate constituent states predictably stagnated for three decades. Greek Cypriots generally demanded supremacy, while Turkish Cypriots generally demanded equality.

Then came the 2004 "Annan Plan." United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan fashioned a Nobel Prize-like breakthrough to reunify Cyprus through a bold scheme of federalism that accommodated both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot aspirations while reciprocally quelling their fears. Dual referendums on the "Annan Plan" were held in April that year. Turkish Cypriots voted overwhelmingly in favor. The United States and the European Union had lured them into affirmative votes by promising to end the strict embargo on the TRNC if the unexpected happened and Greek Cypriots balked. They did, but the embargo has remained. Neither the United States nor the EU has honored their respective promises to open direct links to the TRNC. Their international credibility has plunged and diminished their ability to facilitate reconciliation elsewhere through a combination of promised carrots and sticks. To add insult to injury to the Turkish Cypriots, who had voted in favor of peace and unity, the European Union proceeded to admit solely the Greek Cypriot south as a new member, theoretically representing all of Cyprus on the heels of its shipwreck of reunification.

The issue remained dormant for four years until the 2008 election of Greek Cypriot President Christofias on a platform that included a renewal of negotiations with President Talat. Face-to-face talks began early in the year. After a meeting on May 23, the two leaders committed themselves to achieving "a bicommunal, bizonal federation with political equality, as defined by relevant [United Nations] Security Council resolutions." The envisioned partnership dispensation would comprise a federal government with a single international personality along with a Turkish Cypriot constituent state and a Greek Cypriot constituent state bearing equal status.

President Christofias and President Talat met again on July 1, when they agreed in principle on a single sovereignty and single citizenship. A scheduled meeting on July 25 is expected to conclude with an agreement to begin discussions in September on a comprehensive final settlement. Working groups

and technical committees have already been addressing core political questions and day-to-day issues such as education, road safety, health and the environment.

Despite contrary expectations from world leaders, Greek Cypriots nixed the "Annan Plan" because they perceived that the international embargo of the TRNC put time on their side. The United States can reverse that perception by immediately initiating transportation, telecommunications, trade and sporting ties with the TRNC conditioned on a certification by the secretary of state that Turkish Cypriots are negotiating in good faith for reunification on just and equitable terms. That opening is exactly what President Christofias needs to sell an equal partnership single Cypriot state to his compatriots.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the 34th Anniversary of the Turkish Invasion of Cyprus and to commemorate this tragedy for the Greek Cypriot people.

The 34th commemoration of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus serves to remind all freedom-loving people to solemnly remember the 1974 Turkish military invasion of the island of Cyprus, to mourn those who lost their lives in the invasion, and to condemn the ongoing Turkish occupation. For the past 34 years, Cyprus has endured the illegal military occupation of more than one third of its territory by the Turkish armed forces, in violation of a number of U.N. Security Council resolutions. However, both the U.S. and the Cypriot governments remain committed to achieving a peaceful resolution of this dispute through diplomatic negotiations.

However, the strong U.S.-Cyprus relationship is not just based on a shared interest in ending the Turkish occupation of Cyprus, but also on the fact that the U.S. and Cyprus share a deep and abiding commitment to upholding the ideals of freedom, democracy, justice, human rights, and the international rule of law. The U.S. and the rest of the international community have a moral and ethical obligation to stand with Cypriots to reunify their island and end the Turkish military occupation.

Cyprus's goal is the reunification of the island as a bicommunal and bizonal federation that will protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Cypriots, but also implement a prompt withdrawal of Turkish occupation forces. Cypriot President Demetris Christofias is committed to negotiating a just, viable solution to the Cyprus problem on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolutions, the High Level Agreements of 1977 and 1979, as well as the values and principles on which the European Union was founded.

I urge my colleagues in the U.S. Congress to take note of the 34-year anniversary of the violent invasion that brutally divided the island nation of Cyprus, and to encourage Turkish Cypriot leaders to negotiate in good faith with their Greek Cypriot counterparts, settle this dispute, and develop a plan for reunification that addresses the serious concerns of all

Cypriots. The reunification of the island nation remains a priority for this Congress and for the international community. On this anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, we mourn the deaths of those killed in the invasion and the lost opportunities for reunification over the years, and we look forward to a future of a reunited and peaceful Cyprus.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Thursday July 17, 2008, I was unavoidably detained due to a family emergency and had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 511: "yes." On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 6515.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF RICHARD GARABEDIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the life of an industrious and generous man in the agricultural community of California, Richard Garabedian of Fowler, California. Richard recently passed away after a valiant battle with cancer at the age of 76 years old. He leaves behind his loving wife of 45 years Eleanor, three children and several grandchildren.

Mr. Garabedian was born on June 13, 1932 at his family's 24 by 24 farmhouse in Fowler, California. His parents, having escaped Ottoman Turkey in 1912, immigrated to the U.S. where they first settled in Massachusetts. The family moved to Wisconsin where they soon realized the snow didn't suit them well. The warm climate of the Central Valley of California beckoned them and they settled in Fowler, California. Richard attended Del Rey Grammar School and graduated from Selma High School. After graduating from high school Richard attended Fresno State College. During the Korean War, Richard served with the U.S. Army for two years.

Richard's strong work ethic and his ability to foster action put him at center stage within the California raisin industry. Richard was well known for his strident advocacy on behalf of the raisin industry and raisin growers in particular. He served as chairman of the Raisin Administrative Committee and on the Raisin Bargaining Association Board for 26 years. Through his travels on behalf of the raisin industry, Richard was able to accumulate a broader grasp of the complexities of culture and economics as they relate to the raisin industry both locally and nationally, and abroad. Though Richard's efforts were not always in line with the thinking of others in the industry, all acknowledge that Richard's ardent efforts stemmed from his deep desire that all raisin growers receive the best monetary return due them for their earnest efforts. His tireless efforts on behalf of raisin growers continued until the day he passed away.

It goes without saying that Mr. Garabedian's dedicated involvement in the raisin industry gained him a respected reputation and enormous appreciation from the Central Valley raisin farmers. Richard worked hard and seemed to expect nothing in return. This same generous spirit was evident in Richard's love for his family. I am honored and humbled to join his family today in celebrating the life of this amazing man. His presence will be dearly missed in our community for many years to come.

**FREEDOM FOR LEONARDO MIGUEL
BRUZON AVILA**

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of our colleagues and denounce the unjustified arrest of Leonardo Miguel Bruzon Avila, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Bruzon's commitment to liberty and freedom of expression has characterized the life of that Cuban patriot. On February 23, 2002, he was arrested by the regime's thugs in order to prevent him from participating in demonstrations commemorating the sixth anniversary of the Cuban dictatorship's Air Force's shoot down, on February 24th 1996, of two Brothers to the Rescue airplanes, when four unarmed civilians were murdered.

Mr. Bruzon, acting as president of the "Movimiento Pro Derechos Humanos 24 de Febrero" (the 24 of February Human Rights Movement), sought to commemorate and denounce the murder on that infamous day in 1996 of three American citizens and a US resident. After being arrested in 2002, Mr. Bruzon spent the following two years in the tyranny's gulags without ever having had even a farcical trial or formal "charges" filed against him.

During his imprisonment, Mr. Bruzon participated in several hunger strikes protesting his continued brutal and unjustified detention without trial. As reported by Amnesty International, his continued hunger strikes led to poor health and serious medical complications. Despite his poor health, the totalitarian regime denied him medical attention.

In 2003 Bruzon was offered release from the gulag on the condition that he make statements beneficial to the regime in the controlled Cuban "media". Mr. Bruzon valiantly refused to do so, and he remained imprisoned until June, 2004.

In April of 2008, regime thugs again arrested Mr. Bruzon for hosting a prayer group where worshippers proclaimed support for freedom for Cuban political prisoners and prisoners of conscience. A day later, Mr. Bruzon Avila was released, after being subjected to repeated brutal interrogations.

On July 3, 2008, Mr. Bruzon was one of thirty-six pro-democracy activists arrested by Cuban regime thugs in order to prevent them from participating in activities commemorating the Independence of the United States of America. According to various reports, Mr. Bruzon remains detained.

The Cuban regime has embarked upon a "new tactic" of intimidation of the internal op-

position. Pro-democracy activists are routinely picked up, psychologically and often even physically tortured, and then placed back in the streets.

Madam Speaker, the arrest and torture of Mr. Bruzon Avila is yet another example of the gangster-like nature of the Cubans dictatorship; a regime of gangsters, by gangsters and for gangsters, directed by a gangster-in-chief. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Leonardo Miguel Bruzon Avila and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

**TRIBUTE TO WENDELL H. STEPP,
DOTHAN HISTORIAN AND WIRE-
GRASS VETERANS' ADVOCATE**

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dear friend who passed away Monday, July 21, at the age of 84. Wendell Stepp was a dedicated supporter of veterans and a well known historian for his adopted hometown of Dothan, Alabama, in my congressional district.

As commander of the Wiregrass Veterans Alliance, Wendell was an unmatched advocate for our former military, never failing to call for their improved access to quality VA health care and benefits.

In the days after I was first sworn in to Congress, Wendell came to me to voice strong support for a Wiregrass based VA outpatient clinic. In 1996, with his encouragement, we were able to secure one of the first such VA outpatient clinics in the nation in Dothan. Today, the Dothan VA Clinic serves 6,000 area veterans and in March a second Wiregrass VA clinic was opened at nearby Fort Rucker.

There is another Wendell Stepp; a local historian and author who in 1984 illustrated the transformation of Dothan with the publication of "Dothan: A Pictorial History." He was also the force behind the successful movement to create the popular historic murals that grace the walls of downtown Dothan.

Wendell Stepp was proud to call Dothan home even though he moved to the Wiregrass from Ohio in 1966. His four decades of service to Dothan will guarantee him a rightful place in our history. I extend my condolences to his wife, Winifred, and his family at this time of personal loss. Dothan has lost one of its biggest friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 512 (H.R. 6493—The Aviation Safety Enhancement Act), 513 (H. Res. 1311—Expressing Support for the Designation of National GEAR UP Day), and 514 (H. Res. 1202—Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Guard Youth Challenge Day), I was unfortunately unable to vote due to flight difficulties en route to the Capitol.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

IN TRIBUTE TO STEWART R. MOTT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I have the pleasure of being Co-Chair of the 74-Member Congressional Progressive Caucus in this, the 110th Congress. It is with a deep sense of sadness that I pay tribute to the passing of Stewart R. Mott, founder of the Stewart R. Mott Charitable Trust and the Fund for Constitutional Government and a great progressive leader. Stewart died on June 12th after a year-long battle with cancer, and a memorial service in his honor was held last week in New York City.

In a few weeks, I am publishing a memoir that I titled *A Renegade for Peace and Justice*. I am also reminded that Stewart Mott was truly a giant renegade for peace and justice. Born to a life of wealth and privilege, he took a different path and led a remarkable life of passionate commitment to exploration, discovery, and social change. He also put his good fortune literally and figuratively to remarkably good use, providing essential funding to countless progressive organizations and electoral and issue campaigns dedicated to improving the lot of the downtrodden, promoting peace, and zealously defending the civil rights and civil liberties endowed to each of us in our precious U.S. Constitution.

Stewart Mott lived the philosophy of the Mott family crest, *Spectemur Agendo*, which translates "Let us be known by our deeds." As many of his friends and associates have noted, he will also be remembered for his great sense of humor, his great generosity, his deeds as a pioneering philanthropist, and his undaunted commitment to building a better democracy.

America is hungry for change and I am saddened that Stewart Mott did not live long enough to witness a resurgent progressive movement deliver many of the 21st century changes that will be required to move our country and our world toward more peace and justice. But without his resolve and extraordinary generosity, prospects for lasting progress toward a more perfect Union in America would be far dimmer, as is underscored by the following obituary for Stewart Mott that appeared in the New York Times on June 14, 2008:

[From the New York Times, Jun. 14, 2008]

STEWART R. MOTT, 70, OFFBEAT

PHILANTHROPIST, DIES

(By Douglas Martin)

Stewart R. Mott, a philanthropist whose gifts to progressive and sometimes offbeat causes were often upstaged by his eccentricities, like cultivating a farm with 460 plant species (including 17 types of radishes), a chicken coop and a compost pile, atop his Manhattan penthouse, died Thursday night. He was 70 and had homes in North Salem, N.Y. and Bermuda.

His death was confirmed Friday morning by Conrad Martin, executive director of the Stewart R. Mott Charitable Trust. He said Mr. Mott had been ill with cancer for some time and died in the emergency room of

Northern Westchester Hospital in Mount Kisco, N.Y.

Mr. Mott's philanthropy included birth control, abortion reform, sex research, arms control, feminism, civil liberties, governmental reform, gay rights and research on extrasensory perception.

His political giving, often directed against incumbent presidents, was most visible. In 1968, he heavily bankrolled Senator Eugene McCarthy's challenge to President Lyndon B. Johnson. Four years later, he was the biggest contributor to Senator George McGovern, the Democratic presidential nominee.

When Charles W. Colson, the White House chief counsel to President Richard M. Nixon, included Mr. Mott in the famed "enemies list," Mr. Colson said of him, "nothing but big money for radic-lib candidates."

After the 1974 campaign finance law outlawed exactly the sort of large political gifts in which Mr. Mott specialized, he joined conservatives to fight it as an abridgement of free expression. They argued that limits on contributions given independently of a candidate's organization were unconstitutional. In 1976, the Supreme Court agreed, while keeping other parts of the law. Mr. Mott then became expert on devising ways to give to candidates under the new rules. Following conservatives' precedents, he formed political action committees and became an expert on direct mail, using both as methods of collecting many small donations.

Still, his ability to help the independent presidential candidacy of Representative John B. Anderson of Illinois in 1980 was curbed somewhat; gone were the days when he could simply write a big check and directly hand it to Mr. McCarthy or Mr. McGovern. Some argued that the financing restrictions diminished the chances that surprise candidates could emerge from the grass roots and be propelled to national prominence by well-placed benefactors.

Bradley A. Smith, former chairman of the Federal Election Commission, wrote in the Yale Law Journal in 1996 that Mr. Anderson's losing independent bid might have fared better had Mr. Mott not been so effectively leashed.

Irreverent, good-looking and effusive, Mr. Mott seemed tailor-made for the 1960s and '70s, when he attracted his widest attention, not least for his all-too-candid comments about everything from his sex partners (full names spelled out in newsletters) to his father's parental deficiencies ("a zookeeper") to his blood type (AB+).

He once lived on a Chinese junk as a self-described beatnik and kept notes to himself on Turkish cigarette boxes, accumulating thousands. He held folk music festivals to promote peace and love. His garden atop his Manhattan penthouse (which he sold some years ago) was famous; at one point Mr. Mott taught a course in city gardening at the New School for Social Research in New York. He once told an interviewer that he lay awake wondering how to grow a better radish.

Mr. Mott seemed to relish poking his finger in the eye of General Motors, a company that his father, Charles Stewart Mott, helped shape as an early high executive. In the '60s, the younger Mr. Mott drove a battered red Volkswagen with yellow flower decals when he drove at all. He lambasted G.M. at its annual meeting for not speaking out against the Vietnam War. He gave money to a neighborhood group opposing a new G.M. plant because it would involve razing 1,500 homes.

Mr. Mott broke into politics in 1968, when he used newspaper advertisements to pledge \$50,000 to the as-yet-nonexistent presidential candidacy of Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York if others would contribute double that amount. When Mr. Rockefeller rejected

his efforts, Mr. Mott turned to Mr. McCarthy.

In 1972, Mr. Mott ran what some regarded as a scurrilous ad campaign against Senator Edmund S. Muskie, a rival of Mr. McGovern's in his own Democratic Party. This led to Mr. Mott's being called before the Senate Watergate Committee, which was investigating political "dirty tricks." It found no wrongdoing by him.

Mr. Mott devoted himself to military reform by financing the Project on Military Procurement and the Center for Defense Information, among other left-leaning projects. In 1979, a report by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative research group, said these activities added up to an "anti-defense lobby."

In 1974, Mr. Mott started the Fund for Constitutional Government to expose and correct corruption in the federal government. His mansion in Washington has long been used to raise funds for candidates, as well as causes from handgun control to gay rights. At a 1982 soiree, he brought in an elephant and two donkeys, presumably to demonstrate political balance.

Mr. Mott paid most of the early legal fees for a 1976 suit that ultimately caused former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew to repay kickbacks (\$147,599 plus interest) that he had been accused of receiving when he was governor of Maryland. Mr. Agnew, who had resigned the vice presidency after pleading no contest to a tax evasion charge, did not admit guilt.

Mr. Mott officially told the election agency that his job was "maverick." He listed himself as "philanthropist" in the Manhattan phone book. (Space limitations precluded his preferred "avant-garde philanthropist.")

Stewart Rawlings Mott was born on Dec. 4, 1937, in Flint, Mich. He was the son of Charles Stewart Mott and the former Ruth Rawlings, Mr. Mott's fourth wife. They also had two daughters.

Mr. Mott and his first wife, the former Ethel Culbert Harding, had a son and two daughters. She died in 1924. Mr. Mott's middle two marriages yielded no children.

Charles Mott took over one of the family's businesses, manufacturing wheels and axles, and in 1906 moved this company from Utica, N.Y., to Flint, Mich., to take advantage of the auto industry's rapid growth. By 1913, he had sold the company to General Motors for G.M. stock, becoming G.M.'s largest individual shareholder.

He became a director of the company, serving for 60 years until his death in 1973 at 97. He accumulated interests in many other companies, and in 1926 established the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, a major philanthropy.

Stewart, the second child of the second wave of children, was born when his father was 62. This gap, when combined with the father's standoffish manner, created an immense chasm. The father signed notes to his son, "Very truly yours, C. S. Mott," and hired a coach to teach him to ride a bike.

Stewart was overweight as a child and nearly drowned at 9 when he ventured out on thin ice. After running away at 11, he struck a bargain with his father to come home half the summer if he could work the other half at family enterprises. His experiences included a Flint department store, a pecan-and-geese farm in New Mexico and a refrigerator plant near Paris.

He attended Michigan public and private schools until he was 13, and then entered Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts, from which he graduated. He studied engineering for three years at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, then hitchhiked around the world for a year, spending just \$1,500.

He finished his education at the Columbia University School of General Studies, earning two bachelor's degrees, one in business administration and one in comparative literature, as well as a Phi Beta Kappa key. After his Chinese junk kept sinking in the Hudson, he abandoned it for terrestrial accommodations. He wrote a thesis on Sophocles for a never-completed Columbia master's degree in Greek drama.

While pursuing his education, Mr. Mott worked as an apprentice in various family enterprises. In the academic year of 1963-64, he taught English at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Mich. His philanthropy began when he returned to Flint and started the city's first branch of Planned Parenthood. He then traveled the nation on behalf of Planned Parenthood.

Newly enamored by philanthropy, he asked to join his father's foundation, which mainly served Flint. Father said no, so Stewart used trust funds to start his own charity. He moved to New York in 1966, and did not speak to his father for a year.

He said in an interview in 1971 with The New Yorker: "Right now, my philanthropy is hearty, robust, full-bodied, but it still needs a few years of aging before it will develop fully its eventual clarity, delicacy, elegance, fruitiness, and fragrance."

What happened over the years was that it became more low-key, even as Mr. Mott pursued the same range of causes. On its Web site, the Stewart R. Mott Charitable Trust said it looks for projects "seeking tangible change."

For years, Mr. Mott was a highly publicized eligible bachelor. When the Washington Post reported that he had slept with 40 women over an eight-month period, he issued a correction, saying the number was actually 20.

In 1979, he married Kappy Wells, a sculptor. They divorced in 1999. He is survived by a son, Sam, of Santa Fe, N.M., and a sister, Maryanne Mott, of Santa Barbara, Calif., and Montana.

In 1969, Mr. Mott gave a huge party at Tavern on the Green in Manhattan to celebrate his father's 94th birthday. The older man earlier that day accepted a ride in his son's Volkswagen. He said it was bumpy.

RECOGNIZING THE EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE LIBRARY UPON ITS RECEIPT OF THE AIR FORCE LIBRARY PROGRAM OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to honor the Eglin Air Force Base Library which has recently been recognized as the best in the Air Force upon its receipt of the Air Force Library Program of the Year Award.

Despite setbacks, such as a limited staff and budget cuts, Eglin's library continues to succeed. With over 55,000 items housed in 22 computers, the library holds an abundance of information within its walls. In addition to maintaining the vast inventory and computer center, the library also conducts educational summer reading programs for all ages. These programs are expansive, hosting approximately 1,000 participants and various authors.

The staff has also created a community outreach program that provides services to families facing deployment. The Northwest Florida

area has a high population of military members. These patriots greatly benefit from the library's available programs.

For all its exemplary services, the Eglin Air Force Base Library was awarded the Air Force Library Program of the Year Award on June 12, 2008. The First District of Florida is incredibly grateful for the staff's hard work and diligent efforts to the public and continues to benefit from the library's services. The library's commendable performance has distinguished it as one of the great organizations in north-west Florida.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the Eglin Base Library for all its outstanding dedication to the community.

TAIWAN

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, 50 years ago on September 11, 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower went before the Nation in a radio-television broadcast to speak to the matter of what we today refer to as the Second Taiwan Crisis. The Second Taiwan Crisis was when mainland China had been shelling Taiwan's Quemoy and Matsu Islands for almost 3 weeks. Records from the Republic of China report that over the course of the Second Taiwan Crisis, there were 3,000 civilian and 1,000 military casualties.

President Eisenhower explained that the United States would not waver in its commitment to assist Taiwan in its struggle to remain free of communist domination.

Taiwan, and the islands of Penghu, Quemoy and Matsu have been home of the Republic of China, ROC, ever since the Chinese nationalists, under General Chiang Kai-shek, lost their battle to secure democracy on the Chinese mainland to Mao Zedong in that Nation's civil war, which ended in 1949.

President Eisenhower strongly reaffirmed the United States support of Chiang Kai-shek and his ROC government, noting, "Some misguided persons have said that Quemoy is nothing to become excited about," but pointed out their error, warning that the Red Chinese, under Mao Zedong were using the attacks on the islands to test the free world's courage in resisting aggression. President Eisenhower stated that it was the opinion of his government that the bombardment and blockade of Quemoy and Matsu were not so much a genuine attempt to conquer the Taiwanese islands, but were as part of a plan "to liquidate all of the free world positions in the Western Pacific."

In a firm statement of policy, President Eisenhower promised U.S. allies that there would be "no Pacific Munich." Eisenhower also expressed a sincere hope for "negotiations" for peaceful and honorable solutions, directly or through the U.N.

Americans have not forgotten the free China on Taiwan, but need to be "reminded" of it. And while many today fail to grasp the difference between the ROC and the People's Republic of China they need to know that it is the difference between freedom and communism.

Today, having recently elected its third president, Taiwan is a thriving democratic republic. As citizens of United States of America, we must insure that Taiwan is assisted in its desire to remain a democratic nation. To that end, we will hold faith with the Taiwan Relations Act.

When running for the Republican nomination as President of the United States, George W. Bush was asked on national TV what he would do if push ever came to shove with mainland China on Taiwan—in other words, what would he be willing to do if the communist PRC ever threatened to take over the ROC on Taiwan. He responded in clear and concise language: "Whatever it takes."

Thus, as Taiwan celebrates the 50th anniversary of the August 23, 1958, Bombardment War, we join with Taiwan's President Ma, in his August 23, 2008, visit to Quemoy, where he will personally salute his nation's military, all the citizens of Taiwan and their United States military allies, in their ongoing struggle for self-determination.

Henceforth, let the word go forth that at one time there were people willing to sacrifice, even to death, to protect what they considered payment towards a future of freedom, one not dictated by any outside "detractor," but by those of a citizenry choosing their destiny. Nor should the world forget that today, because of their sacrifice, Taiwan is a free democratic republic.

God has blessed the world with a free, vibrant and productive society in the democratic people on all the islands of Taiwan. May the citizens of Taiwan live long in freedom.

HONORING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR OTIS SMITH, JR.

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to Command Sergeant Major Otis Smith, Jr., an exemplary citizen and soldier from my Congressional District retiring this month after 33 years of military service. CSM Smith currently serves as Armor Center and Fort Knox, KY CSM.

CSM Smith entered the Army in March 1975 as a cavalry scout and graduated from OSUT at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. His first assignment was with A Troop, 15th Cavalry at Fort Benning, GA, as a loader and driver of a Sheridan. He was later assigned to 1-64 Armor in Kitzingen, Germany as a gunner for the improved tow vehicle.

In November of 1978, CSM Smith was assigned to Fort Knox, KY, as an Instructor for 19D Advanced Individual Training. He served as a Drill Sergeant at Fort Knox from 1980 to 1982.

CSM Smith returned to 1-64 Armor in Kitzingen, Germany, in September 1982, where he served as a Scout Squad Leader and Platoon Sergeant. He served as an instructor at the Primary Leadership Development Course at Fort Bliss, TX from 1985 to 1989. CSM Smith returned to Europe in November 1989 to serve as an Evaluator and Observer/Controller for Bradley Gunnery at the 7th Army Training Center in Vilseck, Germany. In 1993 he was assigned to 2-37 Armor

(Vilseck) and served as the acting Operation Sergeant Major for six months before assuming duties as First Sergeant of C/2-37 Armor, with a tour of duty at TF Able Sentry (Macedonia) from March to September 1996.

CSM Smith's next assignment took him to Fort Stewart, GA, where he served as the Operation Sergeant Major of 3-69 Armor for eight months. CSM Smith attended the Sergeants Major Academy from August 1997 to May 1998, subsequently returning to Fort Stewart where he assumed duties as the Operation Sergeant Major of 2d Brigade, 3d Infantry Division, with a deployment to "Operation Desert Fox."

In March of 1999 CSM Smith assumed the duties as CSM of 1-64 Armor. In April of 2001, after a successful SFOR 8 rotation, CSM Smith assumed the duties as the 2d Brigade CSM, with deployments to "Operation Desert Spring" and "Operation Iraqi Freedom." CSM Smith served as the Armor School CSM from August 2003 to July 2005 before receiving his current assignment.

CSM Smith was a tireless advocate of Fort Knox's military value and future viability in the months leading up to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure consideration. He has remained a valuable steward at the Armor School and throughout the Installation during this time a war and administrative transition.

CSM Smith's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters, Good Conduct Medal, U.N. Medal, Global War of Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NATO Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Army Superior Unit Award, Drill Sergeant Badge and the Order of Saint George.

It is my great privilege to recognize Command Sergeant Major Otis Smith, Jr. today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his lifelong example of leadership and service. His unique achievements and dedication to the men and women of the U.S. Army make him an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and respect.

REAL HOPE FOR PEACE ON CYPRUS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, Sunday July 20, 2008, marked the 34th anniversary of the day in 1974 when Turkey intervened to stop an ethnic cleansing campaign against Turkish Cypriots by militant Greek Cypriots. Over the course of the next few days I am sure that a number of my colleagues will come to the floor of this Chamber to lament the so-called "invasion" of Cyprus. I have said this before and I say it again, I am deeply concerned when I hear some of my colleagues throwing barbs at the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey in an attempt to lay all the blame for this complicated issue at their doorstep. The truth is that an unbiased examination of the facts leads to a different conclusion; and by

distorting the facts, by continuing to perpetuate the myth that Turkish Cypriots and Turkey are solely to blame for this incident, I fear that such statements only undermine the good faith efforts of the United States, the European Union and other members of the international community to finally see this conflict resolved; and to see peace and prosperity come to all the people of Cyprus.

Tragically, an historic opportunity to resolve the crisis was lost when the Annan Plan, a UN-brokered proposal to settle the dispute, was soundly defeated by the Greek Cypriots in April 2004. Although the plan had broad support from the international community, and was ratified by the Turkish Cypriots, the Greek Cypriots inexplicably rejected the proposal by a 3 to 1 margin. Those individuals and special interest groups who adhere to the "blame Turkey" school of thought on the status of Cyprus seem to ignore the irony of the fact that when offered the chance to vote for peace, it was the Greek and not the Turkish side that rejected peace.

After the referendum, then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan reported to the Security Council that "the Turkish Cypriot vote has undone any rationale for pressuring and isolating them;" he called for all Security Council members to "give a strong lead to all States to cooperate both bilaterally and in international bodies, to eliminate unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating the Turkish Cypriots and impeding their development." Unfortunately, while the Greek Cypriots became full members of the European Union, little changed for the Turkish Cypriots and their economic and political isolation continues to this day.

Despite the Greek Cypriots' failure to embrace peace and the international community's failure to end the economic isolation of the Turkish Cypriots; Turkish Cypriots continued to seek a just and a peaceful settlement to this crisis. Unfortunately, the issue was at a virtual standstill until recent elections in southern Cyprus brought a new Greek leadership to the forefront who seems more willing to reach a settlement.

In fact, the two leaders in Cyprus, Greek Cypriot Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot Mehmet Ali Talat, met on July 1, 2008 and achieved a remarkable breakthrough by striking an agreement in principle on the issue of a single sovereignty and citizenship. They also agreed to meet again on July 25th to prepare for the first full-fledged negotiations in four years. United States Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, Daniel Fried, who has followed the talks closely, has said that: "There's a chance . . . that we will be moving forward again in a way we haven't in some time." He has also hinted that the Administration is considering appointing a special envoy to Cyprus.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Greek and Turkish Cypriot Leaders for their recent courageous steps; and I sincerely hope that when they meet again a few days from today that they will get down to the real work of reshaping Cyprus into a peaceful island that respects human rights and the fundamental freedoms for all Cypriots. I also sincerely hope that all of my colleagues will learn from their example and join with me to end the 'blame game,' and instead advocate for an even handed approach to the thorny issue that is Cyprus, an approach that recognizes the fun-

damental equality of all Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE'S GRASS-ROOTS PROGRAM

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Football League, NFL, for its continuing efforts to improve the lives of America's youth both on and off the field.

In 1998, the NFL and NFL Players Association organized the NFL Youth Football Fund, YFF, which is a non-profit foundation that supports the game of football at the youth level and promotes positive youth development. This wonderful organization has provided hundreds of thousands of children with the opportunity to learn the game of football, stay physically active, and get involved in productive after-school activities with positive role models.

One important initiative that the YFF has undertaken is its Grassroots Field Refurbishment Program. This unique program provides funds for communities to revamp local athletic fields so that youth have a safe place for athletic activities. The fields are newly built or significantly renovated, with improvements such as irrigation systems, lights, bleachers, scoreboards, goal posts and turf. The YFF has contributed nearly \$23 million through the Grassroots Program to rebuild 170 fields nationwide in underserved areas.

The NFL recently awarded a \$200,000 grant to the Jersey City public schools to help replace the playing field at Cochrane Stadium in the Caven Point Athletic Complex, which is located in my home state of New Jersey. The field was closed in April 2008 because of concerns about high levels of lead found in the astroturf surface. The sports complex at Caven Point is an integral part of youth athletics in Hudson County and many of my constituents use these facilities. I am extremely pleased that the NFL is assisting the community in this way.

I am honored to have an outstanding NFL franchise such as the Giants, who are the Super Bowl XLII Champions, play in my Congressional district at their home field of Giants Stadium in East Rutherford. Our local community continues to proudly support the Giants and is grateful that the NFL has selected Jersey City to receive a grant to improve their local athletic playing field.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in commending the National Football League for its consistent support of our youth across the country. I also ask for unanimous consent to enter an article from the Jersey Journal into the RECORD.

[From the Jersey Journal, June 10, 2008]

NFL GIVING \$200G TO HELP REPLACE TURF AT COCHRANE STADIUM

(By Ken Thorbourne)

The National Football League is chipping in to replace an athletic field in Jersey City that was closed in April due to concerns about lead. The National Football League Grassroots Program announced the \$200,000

grant to the Jersey City public schools to help replace the heavily used Cochrane Stadium field at the Caven Point Athletic Complex last week.

"The district is thrilled the NFL is supporting local athletics," said Board of Education spokesman Gerard Crisonino. "We see it as a real commitment to the students of Jersey City."

Cochrane Stadium—along with the field at Frank Sinatra Park in Hoboken—were closed after elevated levels of lead were found in the synthetic fibers. The Hoboken field has already been replaced.

Crisonino said a new field at Caven Point is expected to cost \$1.1 million. In addition to the NFL grant, the district expects to receive city and county money. Specifications are being drawn up to bid the contract, he added.

Elevated lead levels were also found at the College of New Jersey's Lions Stadium Field in Ewing, which also has a synthetic turf field.

"Fields are an integral part of creating viable and healthy communities," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said in a statement. "The development and refurbishment of these football fields give youngsters a safe place to play the game, and brings families and neighborhoods together."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, July 22, 2008, I was unavoidably detained in my congressional district and had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: (1) rollcall No. 512: "yes" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 6493; (2) rollcall No. 513: "yes" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 1311; (3) rollcall No. 514: "yes" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 1202.

RECOGNIZING THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, as a proud member of the Hellenic Caucus, I rise today to recognize the 34th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus. On this occasion, we mourn those who lost their lives and remember the barrier created in 1974 that still exists today. The island remains divided between the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots, despite attempts by the international community for a reunification settlement.

I have repeatedly emphasized the need for a peaceful settlement to the ongoing division in Cyprus—a goal that has eluded American and European leaders for more than thirty years. I believe that a strong U.S. commitment to Cyprus should be one of our nation's top foreign policy priorities. As Americans, we must guarantee that our foreign policy reflects our values of justice, equality and responsibility, and promoting a lasting peace and stability in Cyprus illustrates those values.

The United States holds a unique position of trust with both Greece and Turkey, and we must use our influence to work toward a solution that is acceptable and equitable to all of Cyprus's residents. I am pleased that we have made progress in recent years, but we have more to do. We must remain committed to our vision of a Cyprus that is again unified and able to reach its full potential in the international arena.

I also would like to thank my colleagues on the Hellenic Caucus, especially Mrs. MALONEY and Mr. BILIRAKIS, for addressing this important event.

TRIBUTE TO RANDALL COLLINS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding academic leader from my district, Randall Collins, Superintendent of Waterford, Connecticut public schools. On July 24, he will be inducted as the 2008–2009 President of the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) in a ceremony to be held in St. Louis, Missouri.

For the past 18 years, Randy has dedicated his personal and professional life to the children, teachers, and faculty of the Waterford public school system in eastern Connecticut. Prior to joining the Waterford public school system, he was Superintendent of Easthampton, Massachusetts public schools. Over the course of his career, Randy has served as the President of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, Co-president of the New England Association of School Superintendents, and has been awarded with numerous accolades including Connecticut's 2002 Superintendent of the Year. Under Randy's leadership, four Waterford schools will also undergo a "green overhaul" to integrate green technologies such as geothermal heating and cooling pumps in the schools' infrastructure.

The AASA is a national association of educational professionals that advocate for improvements in our public education systems as well as for the advancement of children's issues. As President of the AASA, Randy will guide these objectives in a national context. Over the coming year, he will serve as Chairman of the AASA's national convention in San Francisco, travel to Peru to speak with the country's Ministers of Education, and discuss national educational priorities with members of Congress.

Madam Speaker, the success of our education systems relies on the strength and passion of our academic leaders. Mr. Collins has exemplified these traits and I remain confident that he will spark the same passion for children's education in his colleagues at the AASA. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing his significant contributions to public education and welcome him as the new AASA President.

RECOGNIZING SFC QUINTON
EDWARD COURSON, JR.

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant First Class Quinton Edward Courson, Jr.

At an awards ceremony held May 16, 2008 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Sergeant First Class Quinton Edward Courson, Jr., a 1990 graduate of Bartow High School, was awarded the Bronze Star medal for his actions during a recent fifteen month tour of duty with the United States Army in Tikrit, Iraq. The medal is added to those previously earned by SFC Courson, which include the Combat Action Badge, Parachute Qualifications Badge, four Army Commendation medals, six Army Achievement medals and numerous service medals awarded for service in Korea, the Sinai Peninsula and two deployments to Iraq while serving with the 75th Ranger Regiment and the 82nd Airborne Division.

SFC Courson has served seventeen years in the U.S. Army, four years of which have been outside the United States. Quinn and his two daughters, Whitney and Kortney currently live in Springhill, North Carolina until July 2008, when he is reassigned as an instructor at the Advanced Individual Training School at Fort Lee, Virginia.

The ceremony was attended by his Mother, Debbie Parrish of Alturas, Florida and other family members.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring not only the contributions and accomplishments of SFC Courson, but all the men and women serving in the Armed Forces. America is truly a great place because of those who proudly serve this great Nation.

INTRODUCTION OF HONOR FLIGHT
MICHIGAN RESOLUTION

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution which honors David and Carole Cameron and the organization they started in Michigan, Honor Flight Michigan.

Sadly our greatest generation is growing older and passing on. Many of those who fought in World War II never have had the chance to see the World War II Memoria erected in their honor. Madam Speaker, approximately two years ago David and his wife Carole Cameron, founded Honor Flight Michigan in order to remedy that.

This non-profit organization seeks to provide an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. for World War II veterans, in order for the veterans to see the World War II Memorial on the National Mall. The Cameron's built up the organization by private donations and since its inception it has paid for hundreds veterans from our greatest generation to see the Memorial erected in their honor.

David and Carole Cameron, and everyone associated with Honor Flight Michigan rep-

resent the very definition of patriots. Each year, between April and October, Honor Flight Michigan flies a group of veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit the World War II memorial and lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It is truly a remarkable experience for not only the veterans but also the volunteers who assist the veterans on the trips.

Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, David Cameron passed away earlier this year. While I and the organization he founded certainly miss him, his legacy lives on through his family and Honor Flight Michigan. The resolution I am introducing today honors the life of David Cameron and the work he and Carole did to found Honor Flight Michigan. I ask all my colleagues to cosponsor this resolution as a way to pay tribute to the veterans of World War II.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN P.
SHAFFER

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay respect and tribute to Mr. John P. Shaffer, who passed away July 21 at the age of 84.

Mr. Shaffer was born April 25, 1924 in Youngstown, the son of John H. and Genevieve Perry Shaffer. A U.S. Army veteran of World War II, Mr. Shaffer proudly served his country with honor. Following the war, he returned home to Niles and soon married Ann M. Bancroft, his wife of 62 years.

Mr. Shaffer retired in 1984 after working 31 years as a supervisor at National Gypsum Co. A lifelong public servant in the city of Niles, he was a city councilman at large for 12 years, and safety director for the city from 1976 to 1980. In 1984 he was elected mayor, a position he held until 1988.

Mr. Shaffer's tenure as mayor is best remembered for aiding the city in its time of need. In 1985, his second year in office, a devastating tornado swept through the city leaving a path of destruction in its wake. Mr. Shaffer's strong leadership helped the city rise from the rubble, providing hope in the face of devastation.

A patriotic American family man, Mr. Shaffer cherished time spent with his daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. An avid fisherman and outdoorsman, he enjoyed his retirement to the fullest extent, often retreating to the Florida sunshine during harsh Midwestern winters.

He was a member of the Niles Men's Democratic Club, Loyal Order of Moose, and the Niles American Legion. A man of faith, Mr. Shaffer was a member of St. Stephen Church in Niles, often devoting time to those less fortunate. For much of his life, he was a Eucharistic minister for homebound parishioners.

A man of the highest character, Mr. Shaffer's legacy in the Mahoning Valley will live on through his work, public contributions, and family. John P. Shaffer touched many lives in his lifetime, and he will be greatly missed. I am honored to have represented him.

THE DAILY 45: YOUNG PERCY
ROUNDS SHOT TO DEATH IN
WEST PULLMAN

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. Chicago is but one of several American cities that are struggling through an escalating wave of gun-related violence this summer.

On Monday, in the West Pullman neighborhood of Chicago's Far Southside, 15-year-old Percy Rounds, a promising young man, lost his life to an unknown assailant. Like a bad scene from an all-too-familiar movie, Rounds was shot to death by a gunman who sprang out of a gangway. Sadly, for several days prior to Rounds' murder, local residents said they'd heard a steady stream of gunfire throughout their neighborhood. Think about that. A steady stream of gunfire in a residential community.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to Percy Rounds' family and friends. His grieving aunt described her nephew this way, "He was a good kid. He gave himself to the Lord. He's been going to church faithfully every Sunday. He wasn't in a gang." His aunt, a nurse, had the presence of mind to share these sentiments after trying valiantly to stop the bleeding from a fatal wound to her nephew's head.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

MOTION TO GO TO CONFERENCE
ON S. 294, PASSENGER RAIL INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENT
ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 294, the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008, legislation that would authorize \$14.9 billion in funding for Amtrak over the next 5 years.

Rail service has integrated small communities with large cities across the country providing opportunity for economic expansion, increased mobility, and environmentally sound transit. Since Amtrak was founded in 1971, our country has benefited from organized, reliable and safe service to individuals commuting to and from work and individuals using rail service for extended travel. Amtrak also serves as an essential component of easing traffic congestion, reducing wear and tear on roads, protecting our environment and preserving open space across the country. With the skyrocketing costs of airline flights and gas prices at over \$4 a gallon, individuals are relying more and more on rail service.

It is no exaggeration to say that rail service is the lifeline from which New Jersey's state economy draws nourishment. Our region's employers—small, medium, and large—de-

pend upon an integrated rail operation to enable many of their employees to get to and from work. Clients, potential clients, and business partners use the train to come to New Jersey. Our local entrepreneurs use Amtrak to pitch their ideas and sell their products outside of our home state.

It is thus of critical importance that we provide Amtrak with the funding it needs to support its growing ridership, both in New Jersey and throughout the country. For the last 12 years, Amtrak has been suffering from a lack of federal support and for the last 6 years it has been operating without Congressional authorization. In order to keep from going out of business, Amtrak was forced to delay crucial repairs and security improvements, freeze the salaries of its employees, renege on employee pensions and go billions of dollars into debt. The legislation before us today would authorize the funding necessary to improve Amtrak's operations throughout the country and bring our country's rail service into the 21st Century.

S. 294 authorizes \$14.9 billion for Amtrak over the next 5 years, \$4.2 billion of which would be used for capital grants to help Amtrak afford to make necessary repairs and upgrades to the Northeast Corridor. It would also allow Amtrak to procure new rolling stock, rehabilitate existing bridges, as well as make additional capital improvements and maintenance over its entire network.

As a regular Amtrak rider, I appreciate the professionalism and service that customers enjoy every day. Amtrak's hard working employees, including the over 1,300 employed in New Jersey, have continued to provide high quality service despite Amtrak's payroll freezes and pension problems. The Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act would provide Amtrak with \$3 billion in operating grants, which would help Amtrak make good on its promises to these employees. A portion of these funds would be used to pay employees salaries, health costs, and overtime pay. It would also help Amtrak pay for increasing fuel costs, facilities, maintenance and train operations.

This legislation would also create a new Capital Grant program to provide grants for States for intercity passenger rail capital projects. In New Jersey the demand for public transportation has increased dramatically, with NJ Transit providing 900,000 trips per week-day on its trains, buses and light-rail vehicles. S. 294 would authorize over \$2.5 billion in grants to states over the next 5 years to help organizations like NJ Transit pay for the capital costs of facilities and the equipment necessary to provide new or improved intercity passenger rail.

I am pleased that S. 294 includes language I wrote with Representative MURPHY that would require Amtrak to study the feasibility of increasing passenger rail service between Princeton Junction, NJ, and Philadelphia, PA. The Princeton Junction station has seen a 90 percent decrease in Amtrak ridership since 2004 due to reductions in Amtrak service at the Princeton Junction Station. While NJ Transit was able to step in to fill the service void to New York City, commuters to Philadelphia no longer have access to direct. The demand for public transportation will continue to increase, and it is essential that we ensure that we are using existing transportation resources efficiently to meet this demand. This study would require Amtrak to ensure that they are using this station effectively.

The Passenger Rail Investment Reauthorization Act would also provide \$1.7 billion over the next 5 years to help Amtrak pay off the debt it incurred when Congress drastically cut its funding in 2000 and 2001. Amtrak has aggressively targeted this debt, paying down \$600 million from 2002 through 2007. This bill would help Amtrak take further steps to reduce its debt, and allow Amtrak to focus its resources on improving existing services and making additional capital and operational improvements.

S. 294 would bring American passenger rail into the 21st century, authorizing \$1.7 billion for the construction of eleven high-speed rail networks spanning the entire Nation, the first of which would be a high-speed rail corridor between Washington, D.C. and New York City. Countries like France, England and Japan have greatly improved the experience of commuters through the utilization of high speed corridors. This would lead to more efficient public transportation and help the more than 1.5 million New Jerseyans who use Amtrak spend less time commuting and more time at home with their families.

Supporting public transportation especially passenger rail, should be a crucial element of our national effort to slow the rate of global climate change and reduce our dependence on foreign fuels. Passenger rail consumes 21 percent less energy per passenger mile than automobiles and 17 percent less than airplanes. It releases half the amount of greenhouse gases per passenger mile as either air or car travel. The continued operation of Amtrak is an essential component of easing traffic congestion, reducing wear and tear on roads, protecting our environment and preserving open space in New Jersey and across the country.

Rail service is a fundamental component of our Nation's continually growing transportation system, and Amtrak has demonstrated the capacity of integrated rail service to expand economic opportunity, commuter options, and make vital contributions to the fabric of our communities. I urge my colleagues to support S. 294.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unavailable to vote on July 16th and had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcalls 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 501, 504, 505, 507, and 508. I would have voted "nay" on rollcalls 500, 502, 503, and 506.

HONORING OFFICER JACOB CHESTNUT
AND DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to United States Capitol Police Officer Jacob Joseph Chestnut and Detective John Michael Gibson, who were both

shot and killed in the line of duty 10 years ago on July 24, 1998.

Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson represented the very best of the U.S. Capitol Police in their dedication and service to Congress. Each man served the force honorably for 18 years before his untimely death. They assumed great personal risk to safeguard the lives of visitors to the Capitol, Members of Congress, and Congressional staff every day. Their brave actions on that tragic day 10 years ago undoubtedly helped to protect hundreds of innocent lives and illustrated the commitment demonstrated by every sworn member of the U.S. Capitol Police.

While I never personally met Officer Chestnut or Detective Gibson, I have witnessed first-hand their legacy at the Capitol. Their example continues to inspire police officers, Members, and staff alike. The men and women who protect the Capitol complex and community are top-notch professionals who dedicate their time, energy, and prodigious skill to their work. I thank them all from the bottom of my heart.

The tragic loss of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson is not one that we will ever forget. I know that Congress and the Capitol Police will continue to honor their memory and their ultimate sacrifice as we seek to ensure the safety of one of the most recognizable symbols of freedom and democracy today—our Capitol.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRIBAL LAW AND ORDER ACT OF 2008

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2008. I want to thank Senator DORGAN and his colleagues and staff on the Senate Indian Affairs Committee for their tireless dedication to addressing the needs of law enforcement and justice services in Indian Country. I am proud to sponsor the companion legislation in the House of Representatives.

In June 2007, the House Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing on the Lower Brule Reservation in south central South Dakota. Entitled, The Needs and Challenges of Tribal Law Enforcement in Indian Reservations, tribal leaders and law enforcement officials from eight tribes testified for the need to improve government-to-government consultations between tribes and the federal agencies charged with supporting their law enforcement goals. Witnesses explained the need for more resources for officers, equipment, jails, and tribal courts. One witness, Chairman Joseph Brings Plenty of the Cheyenne River Reservation, explained that on his reservation, there are an average of only three officers per shift to cover nineteen communities with 15,000 people and an area approximately the size of Connecticut. On this large, land-based reservation, each officer covers an average of 450 miles of road in one 8 hour shift. In 2006 alone, the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe's police department responded to 11,488 calls for service and made 11,791 arrests. From my work with tribal communities in South Dakota

and as a Member of the Committee on Natural Resources, I know that Cheyenne River is not an extreme case. The experiences and frustrations articulated by Chairman Brings Plenty resonate with tribal leaders across the United States.

The Tribal Law and Order Act is an important step to addressing the complex and broken system of law and order in Indian Country. This bill would clarify the responsibilities of Federal, State, tribal, and local governments with respect to crimes committed in tribal communities; increase coordination and communication among Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies; empower tribal governments with the authority, resources, and information necessary to safely and effectively provide for the public's safety in tribal communities; reduce the prevalence of violent crime in tribal communities and to combat violence against Indian and Alaska Native women; address and prevent drug trafficking and reduce rates of alcohol and drug addiction in Indian country; and increase and standardize the collection of criminal data and the sharing of criminal history information among Federal, State, and tribal officials responsible for responding to and investigating crimes in tribal communities.

The Senate Indian Affairs Committee has held numerous hearings and has reached out to tribes across the United States while crafting this bill, and I appreciate their efforts to address the concerns raised by tribal members and leaders. I recognize that this bill alone will not solve the problems raised by tribes in these consultations and hearings. As such, I will continue to work for increased funding for law enforcement personnel, detention facilities, equipment and training, tribal courts, and other components required for a successful justice system. I will continue to hold Bureau of Indian Affairs accountable for upholding the trust responsibility within the realm of law enforcement. Ultimately, I believe that this bill offers important and necessary tools in our shared goal of making Indian Country a safer place to be.

CONGRATULATING MIKE MCROBERTS

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mike McRoberts on his retirement after 36 years of working for John Deere and 8 years serving as Shop Chairman. Mike McRoberts served as a Union Steward from 1979 until 1990 when he became a Committee Man. After ten years in that position he became Shop Chairman and has been serving in that position up to the present day.

Mike has been a strong advocate for the 3,000 members of Local 838, the largest local within John Deere. Mike has been at the table for all bargaining meetings between John Deere and UAW since 1991, and has overseen all contracts since that time. Mike was also very instrumental in the UAW/John Deere apprenticeship programs and skilled tradesman programs. Most importantly, Mike was a great friend and mentor to all of the workers

at John Deere and taught young people how to be good officers for the local and good committeemen. I know that Mike will be greatly missed by his colleagues at John Deere and the union. I wish him the best in his retirement and future endeavors, and thank him for his many years of service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 512 on H.R. 6493, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

AVIATION SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6493, the Aviation Safety Enhancement Act.

Over the last few years we have heard a number of disturbing reports that the Federal Aviation Administration, FAA, is failing in its mandate to ensure the safety of airline passengers. Last year we discovered that the FAA had allowed Southwest Airlines to fly 117 planes that had not received their mandatory inspections. We learned of two near midair collisions at Newark Airport in my home state of New Jersey. In meetings with Air Traffic Controllers I have been told that these near misses were caused by pilot confusion over last minute and unpublished route changes by the FAA. Rather than address serious concerns about the safety of our nation's air travelers, the FAA has attempted to hide these complaints and issues. In some of these cases, the FAA has retaliated against whistleblowers who disclosed these issues and the number of whistleblower protection claims filed by FAA employees has tripled over the last year.

It is difficult to overstate how important whistleblowers are in the policy process. They are often the human face that confirms the existence of a tangible, even life-threatening problem in a federal agency. Bush Administration officials threatened Jack Spadaro, the former head of the National Mine Health and Safety Academy, MSHA, with the loss of his job when he tried to investigate a mining accident that occurred in 2000. In 2005, the Forest Service fired Douglas Parker, a 40 year employee of the service, after he filed a whistleblower complaint about the improper use of pesticides across several forests in New Mexico and Arizona. Fredrick Whitehurst, a longtime FBI bomb residue expert, filed whistleblower complaints after he pointed out major problems in the FBI's crime lab. I could go on at length about these kinds of cases, but I think you get my point. Outside of the national security community, protecting whistleblowers is perhaps more important in the transportation sector than anywhere else. If the FAA is

being too cozy with industry and pressuring maintenance personnel to reduce the number of violations they cite among the carriers, we need to know that so we can stop it. If the FAA is trying to implement a dangerous and inadequately tested national air traffic pattern change and air traffic controllers believe people will die as a result, we need to know that so we can stop it. This legislation would help us to do that.

Among its provisions, H.R. 6493 would create an independent office of Aviation Safety Whistleblower Protection within the FAA. This office would be responsible for receiving complaints and information from FAA and airline employees about possible violations of safety regulations, federal laws, and standards. This office would allow FAA and airline employees to disclose anonymously their safety concerns without fear of retaliation.

RECALLING THE INFAMOUS ANNI- VERSARY OF THE INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recall the brutal invasion of Cyprus that occurred thirty-four years ago on July 20, 1974.

The people of Cyprus continue to suffer the consequences of that contemptible invasion. Even now, Turkish troops continue to illegally occupy Cyprus. The island remains torn by a militarized fence that slices a 113-mile line across the island.

I encourage both sides to fully comply with the guiding principles of the July 8, 2006 agreement. This agreement seeks to establish working groups that can operate together to reunify Cyprus into one bizonal, bicomunal federation. The July 8 agreement is an important achievement which gives us great cause to remain optimistic that a resolution is possible.

While we can mark the significance of the July 8 agreement, we cannot celebrate until the goal of a unified Cyprus is fully and finally realized. We cannot celebrate until the anniversary of the July 20 invasion is no longer a source of pain for Cypriots, and barbed wire fence no longer splits Cyprus into two disparate sections. The United States, the European Union, and the United Nations have all expressed their support for a solution that will reunify Cyprus. With the steadfast determination of the international community and the people of Cyprus, we will persist until the goal of a free, undivided Cyprus is realized at last.

Madam Speaker, I remain hopeful that Cyprus will once again be free and undivided. After thirty-four years of division, illegal occupation and oppression, the long-suffering Cypriot people deserve to live in freedom and unity today.

HONORING AN ACHIEVEMENT OF THE UCWIP INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one achievement of my former intern, Anu Ambikaipalan who participated in the Australian Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, UCWIP. After an experience in Washington, she returned to Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia where she will soon graduate and pursue a career in law at a prestigious local firm.

Ms. Ambikaipalan was recently distinguished as a leader in her academic pursuits and was asked to deliver a keynote speech at a breakfast reception honoring "Women in the Law." I commend to your attention the insightful text of her speech to reiterate the importance of providing professional development opportunities for youth on Capitol Hill and how these experiences can translate into successful contributions to communities, even on the other side of the world. As Members of Congress, we must continue to support initiatives like the UCWIP which not only improve the lives of our constituents, but engage the global community. The text of her speech follows:

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen. It's great to see so many people here today, and especially university students. Being able to sleep in till 12 noon is one of the prized possessions of a university student, so I'm glad you could all make it.

It is indeed a privilege to be able to speak in front of so many accomplished women and men in the law here. I'd like to thank the Victorian Council of Law Students' Society and the convener of today's breakfast, Katie Elder, for asking me to speak to you this morning on my experience as an Intern in Congress in Washington, D.C., through the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program or the UCWIP.

In the summer of 2007, I along with 11 other Australian university students, were fortunate enough to receive the opportunity to work as Interns in the U.S. Congress.

As exciting as this was, I was brought back to reality when the response given by my friends to my impending internship was—'So, is it like the West Wing?' or 'An Intern?' . . . Like Monica Lewinsky?'

The UCWIP is a program run by Mr. Eric Federling, who directs and manages the program pro bono. It is now in its tenth year and includes 8 participating Australian universities from around Australia with approximately 60 applicants a year.

Applicants are required to choose from 13 Congressional offices which participated in the program. My first preference was an African American Congressman, Mr. Alcee Hastings, who represented the 23rd district of Florida. I chose Congressman Hastings because of his strong stance on racial equality and social justice. Having been in Congress for almost 18 years, the Congressman is an important member of the Democrat party's leadership and often champions the rights of minority groups.

When I arrived in Washington, D.C., in January 2007, I had no idea that the next two months would be a life changing experience.

I remember walking through the hallowed halls of Congress on the first day, nervous but also in complete and utter wonderment. As the weeks went on, I tried not to become too complacent as to where I was. Every

morning I would take the long route to my office so I could see the Capitol Building and remind myself that I was working at the centre of global politics.

When we arrived on Capitol Hill, the U.S. was witnessing monumental changes, with the Democrats regaining the majority in the House of Representatives and the Senate. The highlight for me personally, was when my Congressman gave me his only ticket to the historical swearing in of the first female Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi.

The biggest talking point in Congress with the change in power was the Iraq War and the troop surge.

We were fortunate enough to see both Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright give testimonies before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in relation to the troop surge.

As my Congressman sits on the Intelligence Committee, I was lucky enough to attend one of the very rare open Intelligence Committee hearings with Hon. John Negroponte, Director of National Intelligence and General Michael Hayden, Director of the CIA as witnesses.

However, the UCWIP was not all about work and serious political issues. The program is established to allow participants to gain a well-rounded appreciation of American culture and history. We were given a guided tour of the battlefields of Gettysburg, visited Philadelphia and met extraordinary individuals such as Mr. Joe Ichiuji, a Japanese-American who fought for the U.S. army in World War II, while his family were detained in concentration camps in America because of their Japanese descent.

We also attended major social events such as the inaugural ball for the new mayor of Washington, D.C., Adrian Fenty and the annual Roe v. Wade dinner run by the National Abortion Rights Action League, Pro-Choice America.

The most significant part of my internship was the opportunity to develop legislation to combat gang violence which the Congressman could introduce into this Congress.

This issue came to the forefront after the rapid increase in deaths resulting from gang violence in the Congressman's district. By the 5th January 2007, 8 people had been killed from gang violence. That was more than one person a day. One of those killed was a 2 year old boy who was left in the car as his parents fled from a drive-by shooting.

Since I had very little knowledge of gang violence, I decided to put my years of researching for law assignments into good use. I jumped onto Google. As I scrawled through pages of information, I realized that I had just opened Pandora's Box. Gang violence in America is one of the deadliest and most dangerous activities on the streets, and its scourge has permeated into mainstream American culture through music, movies and television.

Through my research, I discovered that the two problem areas were: (1) trying to deter youths from entering gangs and (2) the high rate of re-offending by youths once they were released from juvenile detention.

Looking through the limited legislation that had already been put through Congress, it was evident a fresh new approach was required. Clearly, the problem will never be solved by middle-aged, college educated, men and women from privileged backgrounds sitting on Capitol Hill, who are so far dissociated from the unemployed, impoverished and generally black young men who roam the streets, searching for drugs and money in order to survive. A connection has to be established between those making the law and the young people on American streets who live day by day in fear of their lives and in the shadows of gang violence.

So, it was a stroke of luck when a group called 'Exhoodus' was holding a briefing on the Hill encouraging Congress to take action combating gang violence. The forum was hosted by Bill Cosby with a panel made up of ex-gang members who had all spent time in jail for murder and drug related crimes. The group traveled around America to speak to youths and deter them from entering gangs. They informed us that gangs were now recruiting from primary school, with gang members being as young as 8 years old.

Inspired by the work of this group, I figured that the only way to find out what to put in the legislation was to ask those directly affected by the issue. As such, we organized to visit the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Home to have a tour of the facilities and speak to some of the children incarcerated there.

It was the most significant part of my internship and one of the most confronting experiences of my life. Some of these kids were 10 or 11 and had already spent 2 or 3 years in detention. As we spent time with these kids, I realized that they were just normal kids who had made one mistake. Most of these children came from broken homes, with violent, alcoholic fathers or mothers prostituting themselves to support their drug addiction. Being in a gang not only provided them with a family unit, but also provided them with money to support their families. They too had dreams of becoming a chef, journalist or an NBA basketball player, but were victims of the streets and of a society that couldn't provide the security and safety that they felt came from being in a gang.

When we told these kids that we wanted them to help us create this piece of legislation to combat gang violence, their reaction was something I can still picture today. They were bursting with ideas on how to improve their local communities and get gangs off their streets and kids back into school.

As we continued to work on the legislation, I was given the opportunity to travel to Florida to visit the Congressman's district and finally experience some resemblance of a summer.

I visited both of the Congressman's district offices—in Ft. Lauderdale and West Palm Beach. His staff took me around the streets of Ft. Lauderdale and I couldn't believe my eyes. I was driving through the ghetto. There was rubbish littering the streets, police officers outside houses questioning people and young men dealing drugs openly on street corners.

Actually seeing the district and understanding where the Congressman came from made me fully appreciate his fight against racial discrimination and injustice. His policies began to make more sense and I gained a lot more motivation for my gang violence work.

After discussing the issue of gang violence with local officials and police, it became evident, and quite frustrating, that nobody wanted to take responsibility for fixing the problem. It was only when we visited a community university that we discovered a possible idea for legislation that would assist with gang violence.

We organized for community colleges to work with local prisons to create reintroduction programs for those who had spent time in juvenile detention. Our purpose was to deter them from falling back into gang activity. The legislation, entitled 'Path to Success' promotes initiatives to provide at-risk youths with counseling and academic and vocational training. Ultimately, this program is based on a principle that is a central tenet of law all over the world reintegrating offenders as a means of rehabilitation.

Last week to my delight, I received an email from the Congressman's office. It was

to inform me that the Bill had passed through Congress and the Senate. The 'Path to Success' program was finally becoming law in the United States.

My experience in Congress has made me realize that we should never feel too small or powerless to make a difference. Upon reflection, after working with people like Congressman Hastings and Eric Federling, if we all took the most valuable commodity we have—our time, and use that for the benefit of others, in a personal way, imagine what a difference we could make.

Although, throughout the internship, I was acting as an Ambassador for my university and Australia, at times we felt like we were acting as ambassadors for those kids who were stuck on the streets of America. Helping the Congressman to produce this piece of legislation was one of the most rewarding and proudest moments of my life.

Being a final year law student from Deakin University, I was given the chance to make a small, yet tangible contribution in the most powerful Government in the world. Through this, I discovered that the opportunity to make a difference is out there for each and every one of us. As the playwright, George Bernard Shaw once wrote, 'Dream things that never were and say, why not?'

COMMEMORATING THE 24TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate once again the anniversary of Turkey's illegal invasion and occupation of Cyprus, beginning in 1974, lasting up to the present time. The division of Cyprus has wreaked havoc on the island nation and left its Turkish-occupied section in disarray. It is cruel that the Cypriot people should continue to be subjected to this conflict.

Two summers ago, we were all pleased to see the two sides reach a major breakthrough in the troubled history of this divided island. After years of conflict, both sides committed themselves to the reunification of Cyprus based on a bizonal, bicomunal federation and political equality. By agreeing to these principles, they recognized the status quo is unacceptable and that continuing it only hurts Turkish and Greek Cypriots.

Now, the two parties have set up working groups and committees so they can begin implementing the agreement they reached in 2006. In just a few days, Cypriot President Christofias will meet with his Turkish counterpart, Mr. Talat, when they will review the progress of these working groups. It is my hope—and I believe my colleagues share in my feeling—that the two sides will soon be able to begin full-fledged negotiations, leading to a final status agreement and the removal of all Turkish troops from the island. Last fall, this House expressed its support for these efforts by unanimously passing H. Res. 405, of which I was a proud cosponsor.

Madam Speaker, we urge the two parties to move forward in their discussions and, at the same time, we urge the international community to step back and allow the Cypriots—and the Cypriots alone—to make the decisions affecting their future. No one can force an agreement on them.

TRIBUTE TO DR. YUHUA WANG

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Dr. Yuhua Wang, who has been recognized as a great artist and sculptor.

Dr. Wang was born in Sichuan, China, and permanently resides in the United States. Since 2000, she has worked as a visiting professor of oriental arts in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University, where she has received several commendation certificates for excellent work performance.

In August 2008, Dr. Wang's book entitled *World's Highest-Level Color Paintings and Ink-Wash Paintings* will be published and distributed worldwide by International Arts Publishing. Dr. Wang has meticulously and delicately applied fine-brushwork and oil colors on hand-sculpted coral and cobblestones which have become treasures of the world.

In the history of Chinese art, her lotus flower paintings are unsurpassed and are extremely valuable. In addition to being proficient in Chinese paintings, she is a highly talented sculptor whose themes are nature's mountains, rocks and plants. Dr. Wang's skills in the creation of colors, paintings and sculptures have reached the acme of perfection in their exquisiteness, elegance and beauty.

Dr. Wang, who takes great pleasure in helping others, is a selfless person whose moral character is noble, which is evidenced by the numerous awards and honors she has received. She has made great contributions to the development of cultural exchange between the East and West. Through her practice of Buddhism, Professor Wang benefits humanity and all living beings.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Yuhua Wang, an outstanding artist and scholar, who has chosen to make her home here in the United States because she has heartfelt love for its people.

NATIONAL ENERGY SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the National Energy Security Intelligence Act of 2008, H.R. 6545.

Our Nation is in the middle of an energy crisis. Oil and gas prices are continuing to climb past \$4 a gallon, and it is unlikely that gas will ever be cheap again. We will never be able to meet our domestic demand even if we drill on every square inch of our public and private lands. The United States possesses only 2 percent of the world's oil reserves, yet consumes over 25 percent of the world's oil. In order to meet our demand we import 22 million barrels of oil a day from some of the most volatile regions of the world. There is no denying that our national security is weakened by our dependence on foreign fuels.

While it is intuitive that our reliance on the international market for our oil and gas supply has an effect on the stability of our economy and our national security, we do not have up-to-date intelligence information on what this dependence means to our national and global security. The legislation before us today would require a National Intelligence Estimate, NEI, of the long-term and short-term outlook for oil and gas prices, supply, and demand as well as an assessment of how our dependence on foreign fuels affects both our short-term and long-term national security. I would like to commend my colleague from Louisiana, Representative DON CAZAYOUX, for introducing H.R. 6545. This legislation would provide us with the information that we need in order to make informed decisions about the relationship between crude oil and natural gas prices and our national security.

The National Energy Security Intelligence Act would also study the national security implications of potential use of energy resources as leverage against the United States by Venezuela, Iran, or other potential adversaries as a result of increased energy prices. One of the most damaging ways Iran could leverage oil prices higher would be to disrupt or even cut off the flow of oil from the Persian Gulf. As chairman of the House Select Intelligence Oversight Panel, I believe it is essential that this NIE address Iran's ability to attack shipping and oil production infrastructure in the Persian Gulf region. Twenty years ago, Iran's efforts to disrupt shipping in the gulf led directly to a military confrontation between our countries. Published reports indicate that Iran has greatly expanded its sea mine stocks, its ballistic missile force, and other assets that could be used to disrupt oil production and shipment through the gulf. The NIE must address these issues if we are to have a full picture of Iran's potential to drive oil prices higher through military action. I support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do likewise.

HONORING WALTER GLENN KELM

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Walter Glenn Kelm, who was recognized this week by Florida Governor Charlie Crist with the Points of Light Award for his outstanding volunteerism. Glenn has committed countless hours and tireless efforts for the past 16 years to provide healthy meals for those less fortunate.

Glenn began his volunteer mission in 1992 when he established the Shephard's Cupboard. Each day after work Glenn would collect food from local grocery stores and donate it for those who otherwise could not afford a nutritious meal. Then, in 1997, he left the Shephard's Cupboard to help start the Volunteer Way Food Bank. Glenn has served many roles at the Volunteer Way, including volunteer board member and later treasurer, but has always stepped up with a smile to do whatever needed to be done. Because of Glenn's active involvement, the Volunteer Way quickly expanded their outreach. Last year they distributed over 5,000,000 pounds of food all over central Florida to those who most need it.

Madam Speaker, Glenn's devoted volunteer efforts have helped provide so many Floridians with healthy meals. I am very much honored to recognize a man whose work has greatly improved the lives of those less fortunate, and will undoubtedly continue to do so. I congratulate him for deserving receiving the Points of Light Award and believe all American can learn from his commitment and passion.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF EAST CENTRAL ALABAMA UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay special recognition to the work of East Central Alabama United Cerebral Palsy. For the last 50 years, this admirable organization has pursued its mission of providing personalized educational and therapeutic services to children with a wide range of developmental disabilities.

In January of 1972, ECAUCP opened Calhoun County's first cerebral palsy center. Just 6 years later the center expanded to provide a full range of treatment for children in need. Today, ECAUCP and the State Department of Mental Health spearhead Alabama's Early Intervention Program which benefits developmentally delayed children and their families.

I am pleased to help recognize the fine work of East Central Alabama United Cerebral Palsy, and wish them the very best in their next 50 years of service to our communities.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL GEAR UP DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1311, supporting the designation of July 22, 2008 as National GEAR UP Day. Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) serves to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Through the hard work of program staff, students, families, and educators, GEAR UP has proven to be an incredibly successful program, providing services at high-poverty middle and high schools. This year marks the 10th Anniversary since Congress established the GEAR UP program, exemplifying our commitment towards providing a quality education to the disadvantaged youth of America.

In a society that depends on, and rewards, those who have a strong educational background, lagging behind can have severe consequences. In this day and age, when our country has transitioned from a post-industrial economy into a knowledge based economy, investing in education is more important than ever, and a high school degree is seen as one

of the first steps towards achieving that quality education. Research has shown that having a high school degree significantly increases an individual's annual earnings and labor force participation rates, and that these rates increase with greater educational attainment.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 8.9 percent of 15–24 year-old students from low-income families dropped out during grades 10–12 in 2005, compared to 3.8 percent from middle-income and 1.5 percent from high-income families. In the same year, 53.5 percent of high school graduates from low-income families enrolled in college immediately after high school, compared to 65.1 percent of middle-income students and 81.2 percent of high-income students.

GEAR UP is currently focused on three objectives to reduce the disadvantages low-income students face compared to their middle-income and high-income peers: increasing academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education, increasing high school graduation and post-secondary enrollment rates, and increasing students' and their families' knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation, and financing. These efforts are working—in 2006, 85.5 percent of the second cohort of GEAR UP students graduated from high school. This remarkable graduation rate is well above those of other low-income students who did not participate in GEAR UP (64 percent) and all students nationally (73.9 percent).

While the effects of GEAR UP are evident, there are currently many low-income students who are unable to participate in the program and many areas in which the program can improve. We need to raise awareness and bolster discussions about how to tailor GEAR UP for all of our low-income students. Recognizing July 22nd, 2008 as National GEAR UP Day could provide the opportunity for conversation about the challenges and opportunities faced by lower income students and will recognize the success of so many who have defied expectations. Funding is also vital towards the successful implementation and expansion of GEAR UP, and as a Member of the Appropriations Committee, I will work to ensure improved funding for GEAR UP and other critical Federal programs focused on improving educational opportunities, supporting the work of teachers and schools, and increasing access to higher education.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is July 23, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Madam Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,966 days since the tragedy called Roe v. Wade was first handed down. Since then, the very foundation

of this Nation been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says, "No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and

their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth.

It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. Madam Speaker, it is who we are.

And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We have failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.

So Madam Speaker, let me conclude this Sunset Memorial in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard it tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 12,966 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that it is time that we stood up together again, and remembered that we are the same America that rejected

human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust; and we are still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

Madam Speaker, as we consider the plight of unborn America tonight, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of innocent unborn children. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny, little American brothers and sisters from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is July 23, 2008, 12,966 days since Roe versus Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children; this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 24, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 25

9:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee

To continue hearings to examine financial institutions located in offshore tax havens, focusing on ways to strengthen United States domestic and international tax enforcement efforts.

SD-342

JULY 29

9:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the magnitude of outstanding payroll tax debt, focusing on the policies and procedures that are used to collect unpaid payroll taxes.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the state of the insurance industry, focusing on the current regulatory and oversight structure.

SD-538

Environment and Public Works

Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR), focusing on a recent court decision and its implications.

SD-406

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Employment and Workplace Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), focusing on protecting workers from dangerous dust at the workplace.

SD-430

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the future of United States trade policy, focusing on perspectives from former United States trade representatives.

SD-215

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine music and radio in the 21st century, focusing on assuring fair rates and rules across the platforms.

SD-226

11 a.m.

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee

To hold joint hearings to examine food marketing to children, focusing on ways to make it safer.

SD-192

2:15 p.m.

Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

S-116, Capitol

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters.

SH-219

JULY 30

9 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine hiring at the Department of Justice.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine ways to improve consumer protection in the prepaid calling card market.

SR-253

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the White House and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), focusing on impeding congressional oversight.

SD-226

12 noon

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Disaster Recovery Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine planning for post-catastrophe housing needs, focusing on if the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has developed an effective strategy for housing large numbers of citizens displaced by a disaster.

SD-562

1 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine S. J.Res. 45, expressing the consent and approval of Congress to an inter-state compact regarding water resources in the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1816, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a commemorative trail in connection with the Women's Rights National Historical Park to link prop-

erties that are historically and thematically associated with the struggle for women's suffrage, S. 2093, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers in the State of Vermont for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 2535, to revise the boundary of the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, S. 2561, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a theme study to identify sites and resources to commemorate and interpret the Cold War, S. 3011, to amend the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site Act of 1991 to expand the boundaries of the historic site, S. 3113, to reinstate the Interim Management Strategy governing off-road vehicle use in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, North Carolina, pending the issuance of a final rule for off-road vehicle use by the National Park Service, S. 3148, to modify the boundary of the Oregon Caves National Monument, S. 3158, to extend the authority for the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission, S. 3226, to rename the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site in the State of Kentucky as the "Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park", S. 3247, to provide for the designation of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park in the State of Michigan, and H.R. 5137, to ensure that hunting remains a purpose of the New River Gorge National River.

SD-366

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

JULY 31

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian health service management, focusing on lost property, wasteful spending and document fabrication.

SD-562

1 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Disaster Recovery Subcommittee

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness to examine ways to ensure the delivery of donated goods to survivors of catastrophes.

311, Cannon Building

2 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine reliance on smart power, focusing on reforming the foreign assistance bureaucracy.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219